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A FAMILY NEWSPAPER-----FOR THE FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

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ADVANCE PAYMENTS.

OUR subscribers will please note particularly the date opposite their names, on the paper. It signifies *the time to which they have paid.* By our terms, money paid after three months from such date must be at the rate of $3 a year. It is hardly necessary to add that $1.25 at the end of six months *pays for only five months' paper.* Money sent by mail, when properly sealed and directed, is at our risk. Money orders, or drafts for large amounts, payable to our order, are preferred.

Special Notice.

IN reply to inquiries, we would say that the FARMER will be sent to all subscribers until a discontinuance is ordered. The date to which payment is made is given on each paper, so that every subscriber can ascertain for himself the time when his subscription ends. All money sent us within a short time of the commencement of the subscription will be regarded as in advance. We would also state that our *lowest and only terms* are given on our third page. We have no Club Terms. We have fixed our rates as low as the times will allow, and we give our readers their full money's worth.

☞See Third Page for Terms, &c.,☜

Subscribers will observe the date on the labels with which their papers are addressed. This date is the time to which the subscription is paid. When a new payment is made, **this date will be immediately altered,** so that the label **is a constant receipt in full** for the time which the subscriber has paid.

Editorial.

THE COMPOST HEAP.

Can specific additions be made to it, to adapt it to particular soils and crops?

COMPOST heaps consist essentially of carbonaceous matters and animal manures. These last act as a ferment, and produce fermentation and decomposition, and reduce the whole mass to a uniform consistence. Compost heaps also contain more or less salts and minerals, which modify the chemical actions which take place in the mass. Where the heap contains a sufficient quantity of animal manure it may be said to be fitted to all soils requiring manure, and to all crops. But the making of a compost heap supposes that we have not a sufficient supply of animal manures, and that we are attempting to supplement the want by preparing other material to take their place.

Composts are sometimes prepared by combining salts and minerals with peat and muck; but on most soils this is a failure. The housewife may mix the materials for a good loaf of bread, but if she omits the yeast she will not have good bread. So if the animal manure is left out of the compost heap, the result will be a very imperfect compost. The fermentation necessary to produce decomposition and uniformity will not take place.

Some soils contain an abundance of certain elements of fertility and are deficient in other elements. So, also, some crops require a large supply of certain kinds of plant food. Now shall we apply our compost indiscriminately to all soils and all crops? Will this be good economy?

To answer this question understandingly, we need a knowledge of the nature and condition of the soil, and of the wants of the particular crops we propose to raise. The science of the agricultural chemist and the experience of the farmer are both needed to enlighten us.

If manure is applied to the new soils of the West, it is found that they produce an exuberant growth of straw and stover, and actually less grain than when no manure is used. The soil contains all that is needed for the growth of wheat and corn, in abundance. After two or three crops, or more, have been taken from it, lime, ashes or salt may be applied with advantage. But quite a number of crops may be taken before animal manures are required. But, after a time, the humus is decomposed, the nitrogen is exhausted, and the crops diminish; as they have already in Illinois, where the crops of wheat average only eleven bushels, instead of twenty-five or thirty. Here experience confirms the decision of science, that the elements upon which the wheat feeds are exhausted in the surface soil, and they must either be brought up from the subsoil, or added to the surface. Deeper ploughing and the addition of lime and potash may renew the crop for a time. But soon the soil will require carbon and nitrogen and minerals, because decomposition and frequent cropping have taken them out of the soil.

If a soil contains a good supply of humus the addition of lime and some stimulating manure will give good crops. If it is light and sandy, it requires carbon and potash. If it is cold and heavy, it wants carbonaceous and animal manure to improve its mechanical condition, as well as to stimulate its fertility. Grains and seeds require a good supply of phosphates to produce them in perfection Grass stalks and straw require nitrogen,—as night soil, Peruvian guano and other animal manures, and urine. Potatoes, turnips and roots, are benefited by lime, in any form, and ashes.

Now with these general facts before us, how shall we manage our compost heaps so as to derive the greatest advantage from them? Shall we apply them to all soils and crops alike, or shall we divide them into several parcels, and make such additions to each as will fit it for the particular field or crop to which we wish to apply it?

Shall we add to the compost we use as a top-dressing for grass, Peruvian guano, or follow it with the water cart, sprinkling the urine from the tank in the cellar? Shall we add to that which is to be spread upon clover, plaster or lime? and to that which we propose to use for potatoes or roots, superphosphate and ashes? Shall we add to that which we design to appropriate to wheat, lime and as much animal manure as we can spare? Shall we add hen manure, urine or guano to the small portion intended for our lettuce, asparagus and peas? To be sure these last will be rapidly used up in the soil; but then the crops to which they are applied, will have completed their growth, and they will be no longer wanted.

Cannot something be done in this way to increase our manurial capital, and enable us to obtain from it a larger return?

The compost heap is the farmer's bank, and it is every year becoming more important that we should make our investments in the most productive stock.

A compost heap, well fermented and worked over until it is fine and of uniform consistence, is a basis to which we may apply the results of science and observation. Shall we not, then, make experiments in this direction and observe carefully the results? We are too apt to drive in the beaten path and confine ourselves to the ruts in which we are accustomed to travel. If we would break out of the old path, and make experiments with freedom and boldness, we might sometimes achieve results that would surprise us, and learn how to use to the best advantage our scanty capital.

He is not the most successful merchant or manufacturer who commands the largest capital, but he who uses to the best advantage the capital he does command.

AGRICULTURAL HONORS.

A committee appointed by the State Agricultural Society of Virginia, to offer in behalf of the Society honorary testimonials to each individual of Virginia who, previous to 1858, had discovered, or introduced, or brought into use, any principle, process or facility, or generally any invention or improvement by which important value had been gained for the agricultural interests of Virginia, have published their report. From a synopsis of this report by the editor of the *American Farmer*, we copy the following:—

General Washington in addition to his writings and the exemplification of all the maxims of good husbandry on his farms, most materially advanced the agricultural interests of the State as "the father of the system of internal improvement in Virginia."

The services of Chief Justice Marshall as the first president of the first agricultural society of Virginia are properly recognized.

President Madison, while a member of Congress, sent from Philadelphia to his farm, in Orange county, a small parcel of timothy seed.

Mr. Abraham B. Venable, while a Senator in Congress, likewise sent from Philadelphia to his farm, in Prince Edward, a small parcel of red top or herds grass.

To Mr. Ryland Rhodes, of Albermarle, is given the credit of the first hill-side plough.

To Commodore Thomas Ap. Catesby Jones of Fairfax, the introduction, as early as 1822, of the substratum or subsoil plough.

To Mr. John Murphy, of Westmoreland, the introduction of a threshing machine.

To Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick, of Rockbridge, the invention of the reaper.

Mr. John Harness, of Hardy county, was the first to practice the cutting down of Indian corn with its stalk entire, to be shocked in the field, and thus used as the food of cattle.

These are but a few of the names of which honorable mention is made in this report. Would it not be well for the Agricultural Societies and Boards of other States to appoint a committee to perform a similar duty to the memory of those men who have in various ways contributed to the improvement of the husbandry of their respective localities?

We said *duty*. Is it not policy as well? The Old Dominion has always honored farmers. The business is respectable there. We talk of its being so in New England. But somehow we fail to convince our sons and daughters of the fact. We try to make home pleasant, by furnishing our families with a variety of reading matter. We buy biographies of men who have made their mark in the professions, in arts, manufactures, commerce, &c., and then wonder that the boys and the girls, too, who read them, are dissatisfied with home life. Men have made their mark in agriculture; have introduced valuable breeds of animals; invented labor-saving implements; cultivated new fruits, vegetables, grains, grasses, &c., but as they pass from the stage they are soon forgotten.

When there were few associations of farmers in the country, and few publications devoted to their interest, this may have been unavoidable. But now, with agricultural Societies or Boards in nearly every State and county, and in many towns, we believe that something may be done towards introducing that "animating spirit of collective ladies" which the French call "*esprit de corps*," but for which unfortunately the English language has no corresponding term. It is seen in "The Members of the Bar," in "Boards of Trade," in mechanical "Unions," in college "Alumni," almost everywhere except among farmers.

It strikes us that the Virginia Society has made a move in the right direction. We commend their example to the Agricultural Boards of our Northern States.

DUTCH CATTLE.

From expressions that we have heard from cattle breeders, we believe that the reports which have been published of Mr. Chenery's late sale of stock, particularly of his Dutch or Holstein cattle, have made an erroneous impression on many minds. The idea seems to be that the prices obtained for his half and three-fourths blood Dutch, were an indication of the popularity of the pure Dutch in this section, which we have good reasons for believing is not correct. Those in attendance at his sale were probably mostly breeders, who wished for pure blood or none. We find the following note from Mr. Chenery in the last *Prairie Farmer*. Perhaps it may be proper for us to say, that we publish it in justice to the Dutch cattle, and not at the suggestion, or even with the knowledge of Mr. Chenery:—

In your notice of the auction sale of live stock at my farm, on the 12th inst., you say that "but three Dutch cattle were sold; one for $90, one for $55 and the other at $35." As this is likely to lead to very erroneous impressions with regard to the value of my "Dutch" or "Holstein" cattle, allow me to say that none of my pure bred Dutch cattle were offered or advertised for sale at auction. The auction catalogue embraced only ¼ and ⅜ blood, yearling heifers and heifer calves (got by bulls out of common and grade cows). Those sold at above prices were ¼ blood calves, and, as you say, the balance were withdrawn. I may add that since the auction, some of them have been sold at private sale as high as $200.

Boston, Mass. WINTHROP W. CHENERY.

HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASS.

The annual meeting of the Hampden County Agricultural Society, was held in Springfield, December 16. The matter of the debt of the Society was referred to the directors. The following is the result of the election of officers:—

President—George Dwight of Springfield.
Secretary—J. N. Bagg, West Springfield.
Treasurer—James E. Russell, Springfield.
Vice Presidents—T. W. Wasson of Springfield; N. T. Smith of West Springfield; V. N. Taylor of Chicopee; George Taylor of Westfield; Sardis Gillett of Southwick; L. H. Ball of Holyoke; William Lyman of Wilbraham; C. S. Newell of Longmeadow; Frank Morgan of Palmer; Gilbert B. Fuller of Ludlow; S. L. Reynold of Monson; Enos W. Boise of Blandford; J. W. Holcomb of Chester; J. W. Gibbs of Russell; R. H. Barlow of Granville; Wilber Wilson of Agawam; Alured Homer of Brimfield; and F. T. Moors of Tolland.

Directors—L. J. Powers, Tim Henry, H. Alexander, J. H. Demmond, and William Pynchon of Springfield; R. Brooks of West Springfield; C. L. Buell of Ludlow; William R. Sessions of South Wilbraham, and Phineas Stedman of Chicopee.

SALES OF IMPROVED STOCK.—We learn from the *Country Gentleman* that Mr. William Birnie, Springfield, Mass., has recently sold the following Ayrshires: The five-year-old cow *Topsy*, to Chas. T. Hubbard, Boston, for $400; the two-year-old heifer *Mysie*, to S. M. & D. Wells, Wethersfield, Ct., for $300; the six-year-old cow *Jessie*, to Geo. H. Taft, Framingham, Mass., for $250; the bull *Johnnie Groat*, to the Messrs. Fairbanks, St. Johnsbury, Vt., and the bull *Dugald Grant*, to S. L. Warner, Lanesville, Ct.

Mr. Sherman Hartwell, Hedge Lawn, Washington, Ct., has sold the following Cotswolds: A ram lamb and ewe lamb to J. M. Carnochan, New York; a two-year-old ram and two ewes to J. M. Walker, Worcester, Mass.; ten ewes with lamb to Mr. Bull, Plymouth, Ct.; one ram and ewe to Chas. Stoddard, Naugatuck, Ct.; a ram lamb to A. C. Smith, New York, and another to Isaac Hart, Bristol, Ct.

Governor Claflin of Massachusetts has presented to Frank D. Curtis, President of the Saratoga County Agricultural Society, a Jersey bull, fawn and white, with black tongue and white tail, from his celebrated cow Flora, sired by Mr. Payson's best bull.

HORTICULTURE.—*Hovey's Magazine*, the oldest horticultural magazine, we believe, in the country, has been united with the *American Journal of Horticulture*, and both will hereafter be published as "*Tilton's Journal of Horticulture and Floral Magazine.*"

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

—The old Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture voted at a late meeting to offer two prizes, of $300 and $200, for best experiments in the State in the artificial propagation of fish.

—A rock maple was recently cut near West Concord, N. H., whose circumference when chopped, was fourteen feet nine inches. It was at least one hundred feet high, and had been tapped for sugaring one hundred and six years.

—From St. Albans, Vt., from October 1 to December 3, there were shipped 452,340 pounds of butter, 394,420 pounds of cheese, and 120,232 bottles spring water, the whole representing a business of $311,321.94.

—Mr. R. Murray, who raised potatoes the past season at the rate of 350 bushels to the acre, and onions at the rate of 624 bushels to the acre, stated, at a late meeting of the Waltham, (Mass.,) Farmers' Club, that he had found air-slacked lime to be a sure cure for the onion maggot.

—One of the features of the Iowa State Fair was the sale of choice farm stock. Ten bull calves, Short-Horned, were sold for $200 each, one for $300, and another for $375. Cotswold ewes sold at $44, and two bucks at $65 per head. Berkshire sow pigs went for $25, and a boar pig nine months old went for $50.

—We recently noticed a call for a convention of Wheat Growers. We see in our exchanges this week that the swine breeders of the West propose a convention of those interested in that department of agriculture; and the potato raisers of Maine are to have a meeting and an exhibition at Augusta, in January, to correct and decide upon the names of potatoes, which vary in different sections.

—Speaking about the bed quilts of many colors and innumerable pieces which take prizes at agricultural fairs, "Aunt Lucy" says in the *Rural New Yorker*, "I have lived forty-six years and brought up six children, and have never yet found time to buy calico and cut it up into little pieces, half an inch square, for the purpose of sewing them together again, just to see how many I could make of it."

—In eastern Virginia are extensive forests of large trees where old tobacco hills and corn furrows, made long ago, can be seen; and in eastern Massachusetts trees fit for saw-logs are casting a dense shade over rows of old corn hills, which retain nearly their original form and size. Need such a country anticipate the evils which are experienced in some parts of the world from the removal of forests?

—The New London, Conn., Agricultural Society held its fifth annual meeting at Norwich on Wednesday. The treasurer reported the total receipts the past year $2,793.45; expenses, $2,488.77; balance in treasury, $167.34. The debt of the society is $600. The Hon. Thomas Clark, of Lisbon, was elected President, and a full list of other officers was chosen. A committee was appointed to provide for a lecture on agriculture in each town in the county.

—A correspondent of the *Mirror and Farmer* says that Mr. Aaron S. Bucknam, of New Ipswich, N. H., obtained from *seventy-one quarts and one pint of milk*, the present autumn, *eleven pounds four ounces* of butter, being a fraction more than one pound to six and one-half quarts. The milk was obtained from four cows, running in a pasture fed close, with two hours' baiting daily in "fall feed." No other extra feed, except that one of the number, a young cow, was fed one pint of meal daily.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

FANCY OR GILT-EDGED BUTTER.

I have seen in the Produce Market Report, several times the past season, that "Fancy Butter" is quoted from thirty to forty cents a pound more than the best of common butter. Now I would like to inquire through the FARMER what that butter is and how it is made? JACOB G. HOVEY.
East St. Johnsbury, Vt., Dec. 7, 1868.

I would like to know how the "Gilt-edged Butter" is made that is spoken of in the FARMER? Will some one that knows how, please inform us? L. R. PARTRIDGE.
Braintree, Vt., Dec. 12, 1868.

REMARKS.—We submit these inquiries to those who know how to make "gilt-edged" butter, with the hope that some one will reply. We are not, however, very sanguine in our expectations that every particular of the process of making "fancy butter" can be put upon paper. The expression "gilt-edged" as applied to butter, or to commercial paper, means, we suppose, simply extra, premium, superfine,—*the very best*. There are "gilt-edged" articles of all kinds in the market; and there are, also, "gilt-edged" farmers, "gilt-edged" housekeepers, "gilt-edged" mechanics, "gilt-edged" men and women, boys and girls, in every department of life, all the way up to Presidents and Kings; but who can divulge the secret of their superiority? Can they themselves impart it to others?

We were informed by one of the dealers in the "gilt-edged butter" alluded to in our report of the market, that in one case the woman who had charge of a dairy which had for some time produced a tip-top article of genuine "fancy butter," was obliged to leave the establishment for a few months. Notwithstanding all the advantages of her example, and of her directions to her successor, the butter made during her absence, from the same cows, in the same room, and with the same utensils, depreciated in value some twenty cents per pound. On her return, however, the butter immediately resumed its former excellence.

Other cases of failure were spoken of, where intelligent men had failed in their efforts to produce the true "gilt-edged" article of butter, though no expense was spared in the selection of cows, in feeding them, or in furnishing the necessary manufacturing conveniences.

We do not state these facts to discourage any one in their efforts for improvement. Nor do we doubt that considerable butter is every year produced by dairy women in the country which, if offered by a well-known maker of the "gilt-edged," would pass as a first rate "fancy" article.

This leads us to remark that the *reputation* of the maker is an important item in the *character* of the article produced. Families who pay "gilt-edged" prices demand assurance of the "respectability" of the source of the article; assurance of neatness and care in every process of its manufacture. We have often heard the remark from a neat farmer's wife, "I should dislike to be obliged to use butter bought in market, without knowing anything about where it came from, or who made it." Nice city people have the same delicacy of feeling and are willing to pay a round price for butter that not only looks and tastes all right, but which they know, and can assure their friends who eat with them, was made with clean hands.

This is all we know about "what that butter is, and how it is made."

GIRLS ON THE FARM.

If it is necessary to the interest of the farm that the boys remain at home, it is no less important that the girls remain there also. Perhaps keeping the girls at home would be the most successful means of keeping the boys there, as youth is always attracted by beauty and grace. The great call for help in cities and manufacturing districts induce great numbers of our middling class of farmers' girls to leave home or situations in farmers' families and seek employment in shops and factories. Although they may earn nominally great pay in these places, their fancied wants require the expenditure of nearly all their wages; and in numerous instances their health becomes sadly impaired, and many of them return home with pale faces and impaired constitutions, instead of the rosy cheeks with which they left home, and with a growing dislike for the plain and substantial things of the country and farm. It would be much better for farmers' girls to stay at home and help their mothers, and their fathers, too, if he has not boys enough. Although they may not have so many fine clothes, costly jewels, and city fashions, they will possess that which is far more desirable—common sense and robust health.

We have Agricultural Colleges for our boys, and by and by these educated and practical young farmers will want healthy and qualified wives. Therefore our girls must wake up, and consider the prospects before them, and embrace every opportunity for fitting themselves for healthy and honorable positions.

It is not unlady-like to be able to superintend the entire domestic concerns of their own households. The servants, if such are employed, are far more likely to be faithful and economical if the mistress knows whether the bread and butter are made right or wrong. The ignorance of the mistress of the house in the details of housekeeping is the great cause of the trouble with the Bridgets, of which we hear so much. When I hear ladies complaining of the ignorance and awkwardness of their help, I am often glad that they do not know what I think is the main cause of all these domestic difficulties. "Good workmen never complain of tools." Good generals are always supported by efficient and reliable officers, and by brave and successful soldiers. Good housekeepers are usually fortunate in securing good help, because they can direct and educate their servants. Housekeeping is an art and science that can be acquired only by much practice. There is no royal road to this, any more than to any other branch of our education. It is not acquired at high schools, nor in shops and factories. In factory and shop work girls expect to serve a more or less extended term of apprenticeship, but as to housekeeping very many young ladies seem to think that no apprenticeship or experience is needed. Is it strange that domestic infelicities and even divorces should be fearfully on the increase? MRS. TRASK.
Reading, Mass., Nov. 27, 1868.

CHEAP WASH FOR BUILDINGS.

Will you please inform me through your columns of some durable and cheap wash for buildings. Something of the kind has appeared in your paper, but I am unable to procure it. S. N. HOWARD.
West Bridgewater, Mass., Dec. 14, 1868.

REMARKS.—The monthly issue of the FARMER, with its annual index furnishes excellent facilities for preserving and referring to the valuable information which appears in its columns. At page 47, volume for 1868, is an editorial article on "How to Prevent the Decay of Wood," in which we introduced the following rules for making a wash, given in the *Scientific American*, to which we presume our correspondent alludes:—

"Take a clean, water-tight cask and put into it *half a bushel of lime*. Slack it by pouring water over it boiling hot, and in sufficient quantity to cover it five inches deep, and stir it briskly till thoroughly slackened. When the lime has been slackened, dissolve it in water, and add two pounds of *sulphate of zinc* and *one of common salt*. These will cause the wash to harden and prevent its cracking, which gives an unseemly appearance to the work. A beautiful cream color may be given to the wash by adding *three pounds of yellow ochre*; or a good pearl or lead color, by the addition of *lamp or iron black*. For fawn color add *four pounds umber, one pound Indian red*, and one pound *common lamp black*. For stone color add *four pounds raw umber* and *two pounds lamp black*. When applied to the outside of houses and to fences, it is rendered more durable by adding about a pint of sweet milk to a gallon of wash."

KICKING COWS.

Is there any remedy for a kicking cow, besides tying her in some of the various ways that have been recommended? I have a valuable cow for milk, generally very kind; appears to have a gentle disposition; but the instant that I take hold of her teats to milk she will kick me over if she can. If you or any of the readers of the FARMER can tell me of a way to prevent or cure her from kicking, you will greatly oblige E. L.
Long Plain, Mass., Nov. 21, 1868.

REMARKS.—Something a little extra by way of food given to a cow while milking will sometimes prove effectual. A confirmed kicker, however, is a bad subject, and the cheapest way often is to make beef of her. In his book on American Cattle, Mr. Allen says, that he has milked valuable cows addicted to kicking by taking the iron *forceps*, used for holding cattle by the nostrils, and tying them by a rope or strap to a beam over head, and drawing up their noses at an elevation and there securing them while they are milked. Some milkers are in the habit of pressing sharp finger nails against the sensitive teats, and then abuse the cows because they kick.

A COUGH IN A HORSE.

I have a valuable mare that has a bad cough. She had the horse-ail when I bought her last spring, and has not got rid of her cough yet. She coughs but very little on the road, but runs at the nose when at work. Whether she has recovered from the horse-ail or not I do not know, but think she ought to have done so before this. She eats as well as any horse, and appears well, except the cough, which keeps her thin of flesh. Can you or any of your subscribers give me any information about it, or suggest a good remedy?
A SUBSCRIBER.
Marshfield, Mass., Dec. 16, 1868.

REMARKS.—Notwithstanding the skill of our best physicians, they are often unable to cure coughs in their human patients. A cough is rather a symptom than a disease. It is often caused by the irritability of the air passages, occasioned by previous disease. A chronic cough in horses is often occasioned, says Dr. Dadd, by indiscretion in the treatment of influenza, distemper, and disease of the respiratory apparatus. It is also one of the effects of liver disease, and, sometimes of worms. Too much dry fodder, especially chaff, often aggravates a cough. Carrots and other roots and green feed may be advantageously used. Give your horse a warm stall, with bedding a foot deep, with moist cut feed, a little laxative medicine and not much hard work. If others have a sure cough remedy we hope they will prescribe.

THE SEASON IN CANADA—NORWAY OATS—RECIPROCITY.

In this section of the country we had a very hot and dry summer. It seemed as though vegetation must die, yet rain came, and the late crops were secured. It was thought that potatoes would fail entirely, but we had a good crop. Buckwheat, too, was heavy where it came up, although a great deal of seed failed to vegetate for want of rain. The autumn was wet enough. The swamps are generally well filled, and so are wells. The ground held open till the 29th of 11th mo., when Boreas blew a blast that sealed up the land, and bridged the streams with ice.

Nearly a foot of snow fell the 7th of this month, and sleighing is good.

A great deal is said about the *Norway Oats*. They have not made their appearance here. I should like to try a few, but the postage on a small package from the United States, is more than they are worth, I fear. I hope to be able to procure some next spring.

I see the wool growers and manufacturers are opposed to a renewal of reciprocity with Canada. I do not much wonder at it, after all that has been said and written by Canadians within a few years; yet I hope the time is not far distant when a treaty will be made allowing mutual *free trade*. I could say much in favor of it, but must forbear at present.
GRANITE.
Bloomfield, C. W., 12th Mo., 14th, 1868.

SCRATCHES AGAIN.

For the cure of scratches I would suggest that milder remedies be used than most of those named by "Subscriber," in the FARMER for Dec. 12.

The last one, however, mentioned by him, that of white lead and linseed oil, I regard as the best I ever tried. Wash the horse's legs clean with castile soap and soft water, rub dry, according to direction of "Subscriber," then apply the paint. But external remedies will generally give only temporary relief. Remove the cause, and the trouble will cease. I believe it is conceded that the cause is impurity of blood. Keep the horses blood in good condition and he will never have the scratches. To do this give common epsom salts. I have cured severe cases with no external application. I make a practice of giving my horses salts every fall. Consequently they are never troubled with this disease. For a dose, I use a table spoonful once a day for three days in succession; then omit the medicine for three days, and so alternate it, until you have given a pound, more or less, according to the necessities of the case. If the horse is very bad, it will require double or treble the above dose,—exercising judgment, of course. I write from experience. Try it. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
A FRIEND OF THE AFFLICTED.
Newport, N. H., Dec. 13, 1868.

MICHIGAN AND KENTUCKY CORN.

By a late number of the FARMER I see that my Kentucky friends are bragging on large ears of corn. On reading the account of their big ears, my man said "We can beat them," and on going to the crib brought in an ear 11¾ inches long, with 22 rows and 55 kernels in a row and nicely tipped out, making 1210 grains in all. The variety is known in this neighborhood as the "Bloody Butcher," of which I send you a few kernels, as a specimen. If this ear is beaten we will dig deeper into the bin. Hudson is in the Southern part of the State, near the line which separates Ohio from Michigan. I came from Vermont two years ago, and am much pleased with my location.
Hudson, Mich., Dec. 9, 1868. D. M. BRIGGS.

REMARKS.—The kernels received are beautifully striped with deep red; the ground being faint yellow and white. In shape the kernels are oblong and about half an inch in length.

PARALYSIS OF A HORSE'S LIPS.

I discovered this fall that my horse had lost the use of her upper and under lips. She would seize a mouthful of hay with her teeth, but could not get it where she could grind it. Consequently she grew poor very fast. I gave her some physic and bled her in her under lip near the teeth. She immediately improved, and is now well. I also washed her head in warm water and brine. I ascribed her difficulty to a cold in the first place.
Hinsdale, N. H., Dec. 8, 1868. A SUBSCRIBER.

GRAPE VINES ON TREES.

In reply to an article in your paper, recommending planting grape vines at the foot of trees, I would say, I once planted one in that way. While the tree remained small, I was benefited by the grapes. But as years rolled on, the tree became a lofty one, so that the fowls of the air lodged in the branches thereof and devoured the grapes, while I, a dweller here below, must be content to take up with such as fall to the ground, which I generally find to be wormy and rotten.
LEANDER MORTON.
Hatfield, Mass., Dec. 6, 1868.

ASHES INJURIOUS TO APPLE TREES.

I notice that several of the correspondents of the FARMER caution the public against adopting my recommendation of putting ashes around trees to protect them from mice. I said it should be applied as late as possible before winter sets in. Brother Talmer put the ashes against the trunks of his trees in June. As the tree is then full of sap, and the bark strained to its utmost by the flowing sap, I should not dare to pile ashes around the trunks at that time, affected as ashes must be by heavy dews and hot suns. I may refer brother Talmer to the young orchard of C. Gray, Esq., of Wilton, not more than fifteen miles from his place, on which ashes has been used as recommended by me.
East Jay, Me., Dec., 1868. JACK.

BONE MILLS.

I wish to inquire through your columns for machines to grind bone by water-power, after it has been pounded. One that is not very expensive and will grind from one to three tons a day.
ELBRIDGE G. TURNER.
New Bedford, Mass., Dec. 9, 1868.

PEA BEANS.

Mr. S. W. Huckins of this town, a subscriber for the FARMER, has raised this year from one peck of pea beans twenty-one bushels, and from one single bean I counted 243 pods, containing 1126 beans. Who beats Mr. Huckins?
Milton, Mass., Dec. 7, 1868. W. S. THAYER.

A CONVENIENT POULTRY HOUSE.

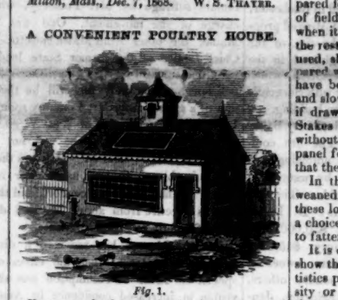

Fig. 1.

Eggs now fetch a good price in market, and we can better afford to expend a little time and money to furnish the hens which lay them with warm and comfortable quarters, than we could when eggs were worth only ten to twelve cents per dozen,—in "store-pay" or barter, at that.

The above cut represents a Poultry House planned and built by the Senior Editor of the FARMER, which may possibly afford suggestions of practical value to those who are arranging the winter quarters for their poultry, whether in a building by itself or in the barn, shed or some other building. A house or room, say eight feet wide by twelve long, will accommodate from twenty to thirty fowls, about as many as can profitably be kept together, unless they have a wider range. The front should face the south, and the yard may be on either side, as taste or convenience may suggest; but so long as the ground is bare the fowls would enjoy a range on the south, and be benefited by coming to the ground.

Figure 1, is a perspective view, and beautiful it is. Fig. 2, is the ground plan; *a*, is the doorway; *b*, the grain chests; *c*, the feeding boxes; *d*, the stairway to the loft; and *e*, a small opening for the fowls to pass out and in. The opening at the left of *a*, is the door-way, from the entry into the main poultry room. Directly over the feeding boxes there may be

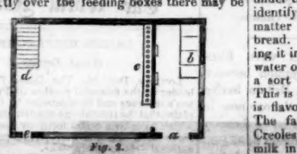

Fig. 2.

placed another row for seats, 2 and 4 feet from the floor, which may be examined through a slide from the entry without entering the main room. These boxes may be darkened and made a little secret, by placing a shelf along in front of them and nailing a board edgewise against it; and as Miss Biddy, like some others of the gentle sex, is a little prudish, at times, it is well enough to indulge her fancies. On a floor under the window in the roof, the fowls will find a warm place in which to congregate in the winter.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

FARM ACCOUNTS.

The close of the year is a suitable time for reviewing the labors of the season. The farmer, as well as the merchant, should make out his balance sheet, showing the profit or loss on the year's transactions. He should know what crops have paid best, and what kind of tillage has been most successful. This can be easily ascertained by keeping a strict account with each field of corn, grain or potatoes.

Yet very few do this. "It is too much trouble," says one; "I doubt the use in being so particular," says another; and so the greater part of farmers find *some* excuse for not keeping farm accounts. If they live through the year without getting in debt, they are satisfied. Well, it is a satisfaction to know that debts are not accumulating, and quite as satisfactory to know that our property is becoming more valuable in consequence of labor properly applied, and of economy in the management of our business. Now I believe that in any neighborhood, and among any given number of farmers, those who keep the closest account of their expenses will be found to be the most prosperous.

At New Year's, or at any time he chooses, let a farmer take an inventory of his stock, tools, grain on hand, and everything that goes to make up his stock in trade. Then let him keep an accurate account of the labor done and expenses paid, during the year, and give credit for everything sold. When the year is completed, let him take another inventory, and strike a balance. He will then ascertain whether his farm has been profitable or not.

How many readers of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER will adopt this course next year? I presume many do so now; but I want to have the number greatly increased, and when the year is completed, let the number be reported. If any regret the course, or find it "don't pay," let them say so, and give their reasons. Try it. Or, if you do not choose to take the whole farm, try the experiment with an acre or two of corn, or wheat, or potatoes, and give us the results. GRANITE.
Bloomfield, C. W., Dec. 12, 1868.

For the New England Farmer.

SMALL LOTS.

The advice is often given to farmers by the papers to remove all unnecessary walls and division fences so that the fields will be as large as possible for the more convenient use of the plough, cultivator, horse rake and mowing machine, besides saving the land upon which the ordinarily numerous division walls or fences stand.

There may be cases where this course can be adopted with profit. On large farms it is desirable to have large fields, especially where few animals are kept and large quantities of grain raised.

There is something very satisfactory to the eye in a wide sweep of meadow when spring clothes it in green, or when the long days of July being activity to the hay field. Nearly all the operations of tillage and harvesting seem to be carried on to greater advantage in the large field.

But it is nevertheless true that on a farm where a mixed husbandry is carried on, there will be constant loss if there are not small lots. And although some delight to gather the statistics of the cost of fences, yet the expense should be as cheerfully borne as the expense for any other necessary purpose.

All shrubs and fruit trees should be protected by fences from the encroachments of animals, and every farm should have its fruit lot. The vegetable garden should be securely fenced. A lot should be ready in spring for the ewes with early lambs. This should be large enough to allow them exercise, yet keep them from roaming. This lot should have a shed. A lot for the calves would add to their thrift, and if it had a southerly exposure and a warm shed for hay and feed troughs it would be more satisfactory. Calves generally do best if kept from other stock till a year old. If geese and ducks are kept, a lot should be provided specially for them. These fowls are very disagreeable if permitted to run with other stock or to have access to the door-yard. Many farmers entirely refuse to keep these water fowls, because of the damage they do to growing crops, and because of their disagreeable noise near the house; yet their products are becoming more scarce and valuable every year. Mattresses may be conducive to good health and early rising; but for resting, commend me to a well ventilated bed in the farm house where ducks and geese are raised. With a lot securely fenced, and with nest-houses, the profit from geese and ducks will be more satisfactory than under ordinary management. A lot for breeding cows and young shotes will tend to cheapen pork, especially if it have a good clover sod and running water. Colts and young horses should not be allowed to exercise in yards where other stock is kept. A high smooth fence will not tempt them to jump.

There should also be plenty of material prepared for temporary fences to surround a piece of field turnips, cabbages, potatoes or corn, when it is desirable to graze some animal in the rest of the field. If posts and boards are used, sharpen the posts to drive into holes prepared with a bar. Use treble-ply nails that have been toughened by heating to a red heat and slowly cooled, and they will seldom break, if drawn with a hammer after being driven. Stakes with boards will make strong fence without nails. There are also several kinds of panel fence and hurdles, that are so prepared that they can be put up at little expense.

In the fall of the year when lambs are weaned, bucks taken up, and the flock divided, these lots will be needed again; especially if a choice breed is kept, or if some are put up to fatten.

It is quite startling to see the statistics that show the immense cost of fences. Such statistics prove nothing in regard to their necessity or economy. Statistics could prove that shoes worn instead of boots would make a great saving; but not one man would cut off his boot legs to economize. It will often happen, where fences are removed and a large field made of small ones that serious inconveniences will be experienced. Z. R. J.

For the New England Farmer.

FOOD.

If the subject of food has not claims on the attention of New England farmers I am at a loss to know what has. With this idea, here are some of Dr. Letheby's views, from his admirable lecture On Food, which I find in the *Chemical News*. Though we live in a land of corn, and he does not, yet we may learn of him. Speaking of *Indian Corn*, he says:—

"It is one of the most extensively used grains in the world; entering largely into the food of the inhabitants of America, Italy, Corsica, Spain, the South of France and the Danubian Principalities; and, since the famine, in Ireland, it has there become a common article of food, especially when potatoes are scarce or dear; though its flavor is harsh and peculiar, and nothing but a scarcity of more agreeable food reconciles people to its use."

This last remark hardly accords with the taste of most of us of New England; yet with those not educated to its use, and who probably do not have it in its most desirable condition, but resort to a stale article, under necessity, it is doubtless true.

"The farina is peculiar when examined under the microscope, and will thus serve to identify it. The meal is rich in nitrogenous matter and fat, yet it does not make good bread. It is, therefore, either cooked by baking it into cakes, or by stirring it into boiling water or boiling milk, and thus making it into a sort of hasty pudding or thick porridge. This is the method of using it in Ireland. It is flavored with salt, or butter, or treacle. The favorite mess, called corn lob, by the Creoles of British Honduras, is prepared with milk in this way. Indian meal mixed with maple sugar and baked into cakes, formed at one time a chief article of diet of the almost extinct Delaware Indians.

"When deprived of its gluten and harsh flavor, by means of a weak solution of caustic soda, and then dried, it forms the expensive food called Oswego or corn flour, which is so largely used for puddings. It is also mixed with wheaten flour and baked into bread, but its harsh taste is scarcely ever completely covered.

"The grain is said to cause disease when eaten for a long time and without other meal,—the symptoms being a scaly eruption upon the hands, great prostration of the vital powers, and death after a year or so, with extreme emaciation. These effects have been frequently observed among the peasants of Italy, who use the meal as their chief food, but I am not aware of any such effects having been seen in Ireland, where it is often the only article of diet."

Have any of the readers of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER seen any such diseases or ill effects from the use of corn meal?

"The nutritive power of Indian meal is very high, and considering its price, it is almost, if not altogether the cheapest food for the poor. Calculated according to the physiological wants of the system, a week's diet for an adult will only cost about 10½ pence, and excepting split peas which are of doubtful digestibility, there is nothing approaching it for economy."

These statements are valuable because they are the latest physiological views of the subject from a chemical stand point, as far as I am aware. The variation of prices in different localities affects the relative cheapness of wheat flour and corn meal to the user. It is undoubtedly true that meal requires more "fixings" to make it palatable to the laboring man than flour,—a f

New England Farmer.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1868.

Advertising Rates.

Advertisements, 1st insertion, 15 cts per line
each subsequent insertion, 12 " " "
Business Notices, each ins'n, 30 " " "
Reading Matter Notices, 50 " " "

Advertisers are charged for the space occupied in solid nonpareil measure.

Transient advertising must be prepaid.

Advertisements must be sent in as early in the week as Tuesday, to secure insertion.

No cuts allowed in advertising columns.

No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar.

Special terms for probate and farm advertising.

The above are net prices for all advertising less than $100 in amount.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Our foreign news is of considerable interest. John Bright has accepted the position of President of the Board of Trade in Mr. Gladstone's cabinet. The London papers are not very complimentary to Minister Johnson, in an article on the Alabama claims. Mr. Laird has published the substance of his correspondence with Mr. Johnson. A change in the French ministry is reported, which is significant of a more liberal policy on the part of the Government. The election of members of the Cortes began Saturday in the incorporated cities of Spain. It is reported that a large majority of those thus far elected are in favor of a monarchical form of government. The statement that a treaty of peace with Chili may be considered an accomplished fact, is authorized by the Government. The difficulty between Turkey and Greece has been very threatening for the past week, but latest advices show ground for believing that actual hostilities will be averted. The leading Powers are acting in concert on this question. The crops in Central India are failures, and famine is threatened. Shocks of earthquakes are reported to have been felt at various points in India.

Later dispatches report the re-election of Messrs. Gladstone, Bright and Lowe. The war excitement is said to be as intense in Constantinople as in Athens. From Paraguay we learn that the allied forces are advancing to invest the Paraguayans at Asuncion. Rear Admiral Davis of the U. S. Navy, accompanied by the American Minister has gone up the river Parana to Asuncion to demand satisfaction for outrages against the American flag.

A large number of bills have been presented in Congress, the past week. Among them were bills for removing political disabilities; one prohibiting certifying of checks by National Banks, except as provided in the bill; to repeal the act by which Georgia was admitted to representation in Congress; &c. Eulogies were delivered in both branches upon the late Thaddeus Stevens. The Senate passed the resolve disapproving of the financial measures recommended in the President's message. A bill providing for the retirement on full salary, after a certain age, of Supreme Judges, has been introduced by Senator Wilson. Congress has adjourned until January 5.

News from the Pacific coast is again lacking in importance. There have been more earthquake shocks in the Sandwich Islands. The father of the present king died on the 24th ult. The season's catch of the whaling fleet has been 42,000 bbls. of oil. The Legislature of British Columbia was formally opened on the 17th inst. at Victoria.

The weather during the latter part of last week was quite cold, but on Sunday we had a slight fall of snow turning to a quite heavy fall of rain, and it has since been quite moderate, almost springlike in some part of the day. *Wednesday noon*—Snow is falling slowly as we write, with the prospect of a storm. Wind southeast, and not very cold.

THE POTATO FEVER.

There appears to be a perfect fever on the subject of seedling potatoes, especially among our friends in Vermont. According to the reports of sales and values it exceeds anything of the kind before known, and leaves the Rohan speculation hopelessly in the shade. At the same rate of progress it will not be long ere the tulip mania of the stolid Dutchmen will cease to head the list of tuberous speculations. Of the latest acquisition in the potato line among the Green Mountain farmers, an exchange says:—

Sixteen specimens sold for $825; twelve for $615; one for a cow; one for a silver mounted harness; and the ordinary quotation is $50 apiece. As a proof of its productiveness, it is stated that a man who paid last year $20 for one eye, raised from it the past season potatoes for which he has realized $750 cash, and has three potatoes left.

While in New York, a few weeks since, we were assured by a gentleman somewhat interested in agricultural speculations, that he had offered for *one single potato*, of a new variety originating in Vermont, *four hundred dollars* (400!) He intended to make himself whole by propagating from slips and selling the plants in the spring. The valuation of the owner of the potato may be inferred when we add that the offer of our acquaintance was refused.

Now, we believe in improving the products of our farms, animal and vegetable, and that the originator of a valuable fruit, vegetable or plant, or the improver of a breed of domestic animals should reap an adequate reward, but there is a legitimate limit, and, as with all other fevers, either in speculation or hygiene, the fever for new things will have its run and its decline, and wo to those who are caught napping when the collapse overtakes them.

So the advice we have to offer to our agricultural readers is this:—Try the new things which may be recommended to you, either by advertisement or editorially, in a rational manner. If you do not care to wait until time has tested the assertions as to the enormous yield or superior value of an article, let your trial of it be on a scale which will not embarrass you in the event of its failure. Any genuine improvement will be of lasting value, and you will be better prepared to avail yourself of it after the insight into its quality which a season's trial will give you. But at all events keep yourself clear of "fevers," whether potato, poultry, long wool, fine wool, *no wool*, grape, or by whatever name they may assume or in whatever questionable shape they may appear. And so far as we have the power, either by careful supervision of our advertising columns, or faithful exposure of attempted humbugs on our readers, we mean to keep the NEW ENGLAND FARMER in the future as in the past, a safe guide to all who seek information or instruction in its columns.

THE NATIONAL REVENUE.—It is stated that Mr. Commissioner Wells, in his forthcoming report, will show that in addition to the thirty-five millions surplus which the Government had last year, we may expect this year a saving of thirty millions more, on various accounts, among which are the finishing-up of the bounties, the reduction of interest, from conversions and the withdrawal of the compound interest notes, and the surrender of pensions. Mr. Wells further estimates that an increase of thirty millions of receipts, from the same sources of revenue, may fairly be looked for, with an ordinary efficient collection and an ordinarily honest administration. He believes, therefore, that it is within bounds to regard the treasury as master of a clear yearly surplus from this time forward of one hundred millions.

ARBITRATION IN PLACE OF WAR.—The London *Times* regards the success of the negotiations between England and America as one of the most important political events of our time. The influence on the opinions of other nations and on the usages of diplomacy cannot but be too powerful and favorable. We may even hope to see the most punctilious of Powers, the military monarchies of Continental Europe, submit to negotiation and arbitration matters which would hitherto have brought their armies into the field.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

The publishers have put forth many attractive editions of both old and new works, and the bookstores appear to be doing a fair business in disposing of them. We have received the following, and we desire our readers to bear in mind that they are not intended exclusively for Christmas but will answer as well for New Year's, or any other occasion.

D. Appleton & Co., publish *"Wood-side and Sea-side,"* illustrated by pen and pencil," a collection of poems by the best authors, profusely and handsomely illustrated. The wonderful effect of artistic wood engraving is well shown in this book, while its literary excellence is unquestionable. Price $4.00.

G. P. Putnam & Son, New York, publish in holiday dress, *"No Love Lost,"* by W. D. Howells, a poem which first appeared in the December number of *Putnam's Monthly*. Price $1.75.

Sheldon & Co., publish a neat little volume of extracts from the sermons of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, entitled *"Gleanings among the Sheaves,"* which will prove very acceptable to all admirers of that eminent clergyman. For sale by Gould and Lincoln.

Roberts Brothers, Boston, issue a volume of *Rural Poems* by Wm. Barnes, an English poet, and one not much known in this country, but who is likely to become popular by the pleasing simplicity and natural character of his writings. It is printed and illustrated in handsome style. Price $2.50.

Lee & Shepard publish *"Words of Hope,"* compiled from the writings of eminent writers of this and other countries. It is intended specially for the perusal of those who have been afflicted by the loss of friends, but also contains truths dear to every christian heart. Price, $2.50.

The above are for sale at all the leading bookstores.

NEW JUVENILES.

Let the publishers alone for caring for the young people! The list of new juveniles is not so full as last year, but there are enough, and the old favorites are out in new editions. Lee & Shepard send us *"Down the River"*; or Buck Bradford and his Tyrants," a new story by Oliver Optic, marked by all the characteristics of his writings for youth. *"Dotty Dimple at Play,"* is the title of the fourth volume of Sophie May's new series. If there is any one so ignorant of juvenile literature as not to know who Prudy and Dotty Parlin are, let him or her not remain in darkness longer, but procure the volumes of this series, and its predecessor, the Prudy books, as soon as possible,—for a more delightful representation of child-life it would be hard to find.

D. Appleton & Co., have published *"Home Stories"* by Mrs. Alice B. Haven, ("Cousin Alice,") a collection of several pleasing tales by this lamented author. They will be found interesting to the older members of the family, and conveying useful lessons in an unpretending but none the less forcible manner. For sale by Lee & Shepard.

Harper & Bros. publish a new work by Du Chaillu, entitled *"Wild Life under the Equator,"* in which the author relates some of his strange experiences in Southern Africa. It is handsomely illustrated, and very interesting, as tales of travel and adventure generally are to young people. Price $1.75. For sale by A. Williams & Co.

THE JANUARY MAGAZINES.

We find ourselves again unable to make more than a passing allusion to the numerous magazines that come to us for the opening year. The old ones are all known to our readers, and we furnish them, in connection with the FARMER, at very low rates. Several new ventures are at hand, one of which, *"Once a Month,"* is a novelty in magazinedom, and likely to prove quite popular. It is about the size of a square 16mo, 104 double column pages, made up of original and selected articles, and published by T. S. Arthur & Sons, Philadelphia, at $2.00 a year. Sent, with the FARMER, for $4. G. W. Carleton, of New York, publishes the first number of *"Onward,"* a new magazine for young folks, edited by Mayne Reid. Judging by the style of the articles, this initial number is largely composed of contributions by the editor, whose popularity among the boy readers of the United States will secure a thorough perusal. We shall refer to this magazine again. Subscription price $3.50 a year. Another new juvenile magazine, entitled *"Golden Hours,"* comes to us from Cincinnati, published by Hitchcock & Walden. It makes a very attractive appearance, and "is designed for the christian and moral household." Terms, $2.00 a year. In making up their reading for the coming year our readers will not forget the old favorites.

NEW BOOKS.

Several new books, some of them of a valuable character are awaiting notice, and will be disposed of soon.

HOLIDAY ADVERTISING.

We take occasion before the holidays are fairly upon us, to call the attention of our readers to the seasonable advertisements in our columns. Those who are shaking from the December blasts will bear in mind the choice treasures of the furry mart of S. Klous & Co., and in the possession of a pair of Zero Mittens defy the powers of the Boreal regions. Shivering mortals will fly for an "iron clad" overcoat to Jackman & Merrill, or draw upon the reserves of Fenno or Read for a nice suit for the younger members of the family. Those of a literary turn will find choice books at Little & Brown's, or stationery and fancy goods at the old stand of Thos. Groom on State St., or J. M. Whittemore & Co., on Washington St. The different sewing and knitting machines also present their claims, and invite examination. Plated ware, in every variety, is offered by Barclay & Russell, on Bromfield St., and their show cases present a tempting array. In short, as we lack space to enumerate each and all, we close this, our unsolicited testimony in favor of our advertisers, by recommending the careful consideration of their offers. N. B.—Ask for the articles advertised in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

Since the opening of the U. S. Circuit Court at Richmond, Va., several important decisions have been delivered by Chief Justice Chase. One of the most important is that establishing the right of stock-holders in the loyal States to dividends declared during the war upon stock held by them in southern railways, notwithstanding the confiscation of such stock and its dividends by the Confederate government. He promulgates the rule that Confederate notes received in the rebel States on account of persons in the loyal States innocent of acts violating the interdicts against commercial intercourse must be accounted for in lawful money, equal in value to the Confederate notes at the time of their receipt.

In a case of confiscation of real estate under the act of July 7, 1862, the Judge said that several cases arising under this act have been considered by the Supreme Court, and as the point was not raised, it was a fair conclusion that neither at the bar or upon the bench was the constitutionality of the act doubted. He also said that he was bound by the action of that court, and that he should hold for the present that the act is warranted by the Constitution.

THE NEW NICKEL COINS.—The denominations of the new coins are to be one, three and five cents, and they are to be composed of one-fourth nickel and three-fourths copper. The one cent coin is to weigh a grain and a half, and will be about the size of the five cent silver coin which some of the existing inhabitants of the United States will recollect to have seen. The three and five cent pieces are to be about the size of the one and two cent coppers now in use, and will weigh respectively three and five grains. The new coin is to be legal tender for a dollar except for duties on imports, and all the existing nickel and copper coins will be withdrawn.

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW.—A Springfield dispatch of the 20th, says:—

Orders have been received at the United States Armory in this city to pay the workmen four-fifths of the usual rate per day for all work done since August 20, when the eight-hour law went into operation. Work will be resumed next week upon the ten-hour system.

THE NEW NAVY YARDS.—Washington dispatches state that Government has now possession of the New London, Conn., Navy Yard site, the titles having been examined by the Attorney General and pronounced perfect. There is one mile of deep water front, which will give the facilities so much needed at other yards. It is also stated that Congress will be asked to appropriate $3,000,000 for the commencement of the navy yard establishment on League Island, below Philadelphia.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

The New York Hotel at Saco, Me., was entirely destroyed by fire Monday morning, with the stable and outbuildings. The fire spread to the stable of the Saco House, which with the Saco bake house, Deering's barber shop, the American House, and several small houses, was also burned. Total loss estimated at $40,000. The insurance is stated at $7000.

In Bath, Me., early Saturday morning, the house of Capt. Chas. G. Chadbourne was burnt down, the inmates barely escaping with their lives. The wind spread the flames till some twenty buildings were on fire, but only two were entirely destroyed, Mr. Chadbourne's and Mr. Wm. Webster's. Their loss amounted to some $10,000, on which there was only $3700 insurance. Some other parties suffered considerable losses.

A mill at Central Falls, R. I., occupied by S. C. Pierce, Messrs. Arnold & Co., and Taylor, was burned on Friday night, 18th. Taylor's loss will be about $4000—insured for $2000; Messrs. Arnold, $8000—insured for $5000; Mr. Pierce's loss $5000—fully insured.

A serious fire occurred in the town of Albion, N. Y., early on the 19th. Two blocks, the Empire and Hills', were almost entirely destroyed, together with their contents. Messrs. Cole & Shelden, clothing dealers, lost $12,000; insured for $6,000. Orleans American office, $7,000; insured for $2,500. John Bradshaw, hatter, $3000; and other parties smaller amounts.

Two serious fires are reported in Rochester, N. Y. The first, on Sunday, destroyed property in the central portion of the city to the amount of $100,000. It originated in the printing office of the *Daily Democrat*, which was totally destroyed, together with Sargent's bank lock factory in the same building, on State street, occupied by the Flour City Bank, was pretty much destroyed. The fire communicated to other buildings adjoining, and did some damage. The loss by water and damage of goods was considerable. The following are the chief sufferers: D. D. S. Brown, Rochester *Democrat*, $30,000; insured. J. Sargent, lock factory, $15,000; partially insured. D. W. Bowers, owner of the Democrat Building and sundry others, injured, $20,000 insured; A. Ericsson, Jennings & Mumford, and Union Bank lost $8000 each, insured; More & Cole, grocers, lost by water $5000, insured. There were many other sufferers in smaller sums. On Monday, there was a fire in American Block on State street, which burnt out a wholesale millinery and fancy goods store. A clothing store adjoining was flooded. The millinery stock, owned by T. M. Johnson of Buffalo, was valued at $13,000; insured $7500. The fancy goods, owned by A. T. Vanorman, were valued at $6000; insured $3000.

In Cincinnati, on the 17th, a fire broke out at No. 25 Vine street, in the grocery establishment of H. D. Rogers & Co., which was entirely destroyed. Nos. 27 and 29 adjoining were also severely damaged. Loss not less than $50,000; mostly insured. About half-past nine fire broke out at No. 51 Vine street. Loss about $30,000; insured for $4000. It was occupied by Reinhardt & Co., confectioners. The total loss by the two fires is nearly $80,000.

The Bellefield Presbyterian church, Pittsburg, Pa., was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday. Loss $20,000; insured for $15.000.

The commissary house at Fort Snelling, Minnesota located on the bluffs between St. Paul and Minneapolis, was destroyed by fire on Sunday night. Loss about $15,000. The origin of the fire was a defective chimney.

NEW POSTAL CONVENTION WITH ENGLAND.—The new postal convention between the United States and Great Britain having been signed, it will supersede the one now in force and go into effect on the 1st of January next. It is not materially different in its general provisions from the one now existing. Great Britain, however, has abolished the double, and will, after that time, charge only a single rate, while the United States will reduce the rates on newspapers, small pamphlets and periodicals. All postages will be divided between the two countries as at present.

Political Intelligence.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.—Third Session.

On Wednesday, 16th, in the Senate, Mr. Sherman reported from the Finance Committee a resolution setting forth that neither public policy nor the good faith of the nation will permit the redemption of the five-twenty bonds until the Government shall have first redeemed its notes in gold, and declaring that measures should be at once adopted to secure a speedy return to specie payments. Laid on the table. Mr. Sherman also reported back from the same Committee the joint resolution introduced in 1867 by Mr. Edmunds pledging the faith of the Government to the payment of the national debt in coin or its equivalent. The judiciary committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of immediate legislation to prevent the discharge of convicts in Virginia under a recent decision. Mr. Morton's bill providing for the resumption of specie payments was taken up, explained by Mr. M., and referred. The resolution disapproving of the President's repudiation plans was discussed at some length. In the House, a bill was reported from the Reconstruction Committee relieving from their political disabilities certain citizens of the Southern States who have recently been elected to office. Also, a bill to repeal the act prohibiting the organization of the militia in the reconstructed Southern States. Both bills were passed. The Committee on Banking was, by resolution, instructed to inquire into the expediency of preparing a bill prohibiting, under severe penalties, National Banks from certifying checks unless the makers of such checks have sufficient funds on deposit to meet the same. A resolution was adopted providing that women employed by the Government shall hereafter receive the same rate of compensation as men who perform similar services. The remainder of the session was consumed in debating a proposition for a new drawing for seats, and, after its adoption, in drawing the seats by lot.

In the Senate, Thursday, a number of bills and resolutions were introduced and referred to committees. A bill removing the political disabilities from certain citizens of South Carolina was passed. The resolutions reported by the Finance Committee, disapproving of the financial measures recommended by the President in his annual Message, were taken up and, after general debate, were adopted. One or two bills were introduced and referred, after which the Senate adjourned. In the House, eulogies upon the late Thaddeus Stevens were pronounced by Messrs. Kelly, Wood, Broomall, Whittemore, Covode and others, after which the House adjourned.

In the Senate, Friday, Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill to repeal the act by which Georgia was admitted to representation in Congress. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Sumner's resolution, expressing sympathy with Spain, was, after some objection, passed, by a vote of 41 yeas to 5 nays. The House resolutions announcing the death of Thaddeus Stevens were received, and eulogies were pronounced by Messrs. Cameron, Buckalew, Morrill and Sumner, after which the Senate adjourned. In the House, the credentials of J. W. Menard, colored, member elect from Louisiana, were presented and referred to the Committee on Elections. The bill removing the political disabilities from certain persons who have been elected to office in South Carolina, was reported from the Reconstruction Committee and passed. A large number of bills and resolutions were introduced, read by title and referred to committees. The death of the late Mr. Finney, formerly a member from Pennsylvania, was announced. Eulogies were pronounced by Messrs. Pettis, O'Neil, Woodward and others, and the House adjourned till Monday.

In the Senate, Saturday, among the petitions presented was one from certain ladies of the State of New York for equal suffrage. A bill was introduced by Senator Pomeroy, providing for the reassembling of the Constitutional Convention of Georgia within thirty days from its passage, for the purpose of amending the Constitution so as to place beyond all possibility of doubt the right of every black or white citizen in the State to hold office. After a short discussion, the bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. A resolution was adopted, asking the President whether any rent had been paid for the Libby Prison at Richmond, and, if so, by whom and by what authority. Senator Chandler made an effort to bring up the Copper Tariff bill, but after an hour's debate the Senate refused to consider it, by a vote of twenty-two yeas to twenty-five nays.

Senator Morrill offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate whether anything had been done to prevent the payment to Laird & Co., of Liverpool, England, builders of the Alabama, of the proceeds for the sale of the steamer Wren, built by them for the Confederates, and also to secure the payment of those proceeds to the owners of vessels destroyed by the Alabama. The resolution was adopted.

In the Senate, Monday, several petitions were appropriately referred. Mr. Wilson, of Mass., introduced a bill relating to the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States. It provides that any judge of the Supreme Court may, after having attained the age of seventy years, resign, and shall thereafter while he lives receive the same salary as when in active service at the date of his resignation. Referred to the judiciary committee. The House was in session only a short time. The committee on retrenchment made a report on the whiskey frauds. Both branches adjourned over the holidays to Jan. 5.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

The bill of Mr. Edmunds, referred to in Friday's Congressional summary, sets forth that Georgia has not conformed to the requirements of the Reconstruction acts, and provides that the existing State Government shall be supplanted by the former Military Government; that the colored members who were turned out of the Legislature shall be restored to their seats. It also provides for a Provisional Government, to be continued during the pleasure of Congress.

The Supreme Court was to adjourn on the 24th until the 4th of January.

Two more petitions were introduced in the U. S. Senate on Tuesday, 15th, in favor of female suffrage by Mr. Pomeroy, who has charge of the movement. One was from Maine, the other from Massachusetts. The Chief Justice of the former State leads off with the signatures on that petition. These petitions multiply daily, and will be the subject of a speech from Mr. Pomeroy soon.

Senator Van Winkle of West Virginia authorizes the statement that he will not be a candidate for re-election. He says that the life he is obliged to lead as Senator is unsuited to his taste and comfort, and that he desires to retire from active life and devote himself quietly to literary pursuits.

Senator Morton has received a dispatch from Europe stating that the effect of his speech in favor of resumption was already visible in increased confidence in American securities.

Intelligence from Maryland and Kentucky reports that there is a large and independent party of Democrats in both States who declare their intention to concede the right of suffrage to all their colored men rather than submit to a loss of representation in Congress.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, has appointed Edwin Morton, Esq., of Boston, Trustee of the School for Idiotic and Feeble Minded Youth, in place of Stephen M. Weld, deceased.

Pennsylvania, unlike the other States which have had two elections this fall, threw a heavier vote at the Presidential than at the State election. The increase was over 2507. The Republicans, who it will be remembered mustered in great strength in October, increased their vote 10,664 and their majority 19,221.

The number of persons disfranchised at the South, by reason of the reconstruction laws, is estimated at 62,500, distributed as follows:

Alabama	10,000	North Carolina	8,000
Arkansas	5,000	South Carolina	5,000
Florida	3,000	Texas	3,000
Georgia	8,000	Virginia	12,000
Louisiana	5,000		
Mississippi	6,000	Total	62,500

The World Abroad.

CABLE DISPATCHES.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 16. The *Daily Telegraph*, in a leader on the financial portion of President Johnson's message and its transmission by Congress, complains that the resolutions condemning repudiation, which have been called forth by the message, still leave open the question of the payment of the national debt in greenbacks.

Mr. Johnson, American Minister, in a short speech at the anniversary of the French Hospital, declared that Lord Clarendon was of the same mind as Lord Stanley, in regard to the statement of the questions pending between England and America, and peace between the two countries was certain.

LONDON, Dec. 17. Mr. Bright accepted the position in the Cabinet as President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Layard has been appointed Commissioner of Public Works.

The *Times* says Mr. Reverdy Johnson's assurance that the Alabama negotiations are closed must be accepted, though with much surprise, seeing that he increased his demands after Lord Stanley had surrendered all that could be abandoned honorably. It reserves that so much has been made public about the negotiations.

LONDON, Dec. 18. The Marquis of Salisbury denies the truth of the report that the Government has determined to recall Earl Mayo from India.

LONDON, Dec. 20. The utter inability of the Great Powers of Europe to control the action of Greece in the pending troubles with Turkey, excites distrust in financial circles here, and there is a general falling off in all money values. This distrust is only increased by the reassurance of French press, and even if Russia is not the prime mover in her remonstrance, it is the general opinion that she will not be able to give Greece any material aid. The press of London generally unite in urging the great powers to a final remonstrance with Greece to prevent the occurrence of war, and if that is rejected to leave Greece to her fate.

John Laird, member of Parliament for Birkenhead, publishes to-day the correspondence he had with Reverdy Johnson, showing the origin and progress of the friendship that existed between them. Mr. Laird himself made the first advances toward friendship in October, not long before the Liverpool banquet. Mr. Laird invited Mr. Johnson to Birkenhead to see his establishment and hear his (Mr. Laird's) views for a lasting peace between England and America. Mr. Johnson, in his reply, regretted that a lack of time would prevent his acceptance of the invitation, and added the following words: "Notwithstanding you sympathized with my Southern brethren during the late war, I shall receive much pleasure in making your acquaintance, and hearing your sincere wishes for peace."

LONDON, Dec. 24. The steamers which arrived a day or two ago brought the annual message of President Johnson. The London *Times* in its comments refers to the President's stubbornness, denounces his repudiation proposition, and approves the action of the Senate and the House in their disposal of the document.

Messrs. Gladstone, Bright and Lowe have been re-elected to Parliament, as have all the members of the ministry, except Mr. Cardwell, whose election will take place to-morrow. None of the elections were contested. Mr. Gladstone, in a speech at the hustings in Greenwich, said he was not yet fully in favor of the ballot, but if free voting was impossible without such a safeguard then he was for the ballot.

Mr. Bright also made a speech before his re-election at Birmingham, in which he argued that the late Parliamentary elections offered fresh evidence in favor of the adoption of the ballot. He denounced the profligate Tory party, and closed with promising, on the part of the Cabinet, an economical reform in the administration of the Government.

Paraguay.

LISBON, Dec. 21. The regular mail steamer from Rio Janeiro has arrived here, bringing dates from that city to the 6th inst. The war news was meagre. There had been no fighting since the last advices. Gen. Argolls of the allied troops was advancing his command to invest the Paraguayans at Asuncion.

Rear Admiral Davis of the American Navy, with several vessels of his fleet had gone up the river Parana to Asuncion. He was accompanied by the American Minister, Mr. McMahon. They go to demand satisfaction from the Paraguayan Government for outrages against the American flag.

The Markets.

RETAIL PRICES.

INSIDE OF FANEUIL HALL MARKET.

[Corrected weekly by DRURY & JOHNSON, No. 1, *Veal and Mutton*; J. RUSSELL & CO., Nos. 17 & 19, *Poultry and Game*; HARRISON BIRD, Nos. 38 & 40, *Beef, Pork Lard and Hams*; CHAMBERLAIN, STURGES & CO., Nos. 79 & 81, *Butter, Cheese and Eggs*; HILAND, SMITH & CO., Nos. 97 & 99, *Fruit and Vegetables*; NEWCOMB & KROGMAN, 30 & 32, New F. H. Market, *Fish*; MERRITT & RICHARDSON, No. 1 F. H. Square, *Fruit and Nuts.*]

Butter, Cheese and Eggs.

Butter,new lump 50 @ .. 55 | Cheese, ♥ lb . . 10 @ .. 20
new tub,boat . 45 @ .. 50 | Eggs, ♥ doz . . @ .. 45
2d quality . . 44 @ .. 47

Meats, Fresh, ♥ lb.

Beef—
Sirloin steak . 35 @ .. 35
Round do . . 23 @ .. 25
Rib, roast . . @ .. 23
Chuck rib . . 12 @ .. 17
Plate and navle 12 @ .. 12½
Soup pieces . . 5 @ .. 14
Liver . . . . 8 @ .. 10
Hearts, each . 25 @ .. 30
Lard, leaf . . 17 @ .. 18
Tried . . . . 18 @ .. 19
Hogs, round, ♥ bll @ .. 13
Pork, ♥ lb—
Roast & stks . 14 @ .. 15
Kidneys,each . @ .. 10
Lamb—
hind qr. . . 15 @ .. 18
fore qr. . . 10 @ .. 14
Mutton—
hind qr. ♥ lb . 17 @ .. 23
Fore qr, ♥ lb . 10 @ .. 15½
Chops . . . 16 @ .. 20
Head,ir. ab'p,each @ .. 25
Suet, ♥ lb . . 10 @ .. 15
Tallow . . . . 13 @ .. 14
Veal, h'd qr, ♥ lb 8 @ .. 12½
Fore quarter . 13 @ .. 16
Loins . . . . 18 @ .. 20

Meats—Salt, Smoked, etc.

Pork, hams, ♥ lb 17 @ .. 19
Bacon, ♥ lb . 17 @ .. 18
Shoulders, ♥ lb . 8 @ .. 13
Salt, ♥ lb . . 15 @ .. 18
Beef, corned . . 17 @ .. 18
Smoked, ♥ lb . 25 @ .. 30
Tongues, ♥ lb . 37½ @ .. 38
Sheep tongues, ♥ doz . 50
Pigs' feet, ♥ lb . . @ .. 10
Sausages, ♥ lb . 14 @ .. 16
Bologna, s'g'e ♥ lb 14 @ .. 16
Trips, ♥ lb . . 12 @ .. 14

Poultry and Game.

Boar, ♥ lb . . 15 @ .. 20
Chickens, ♥ lb—
Spring . . 25 @ .. 30
Ducks, choice ♥ lb 25 @ .. 30
Black, ♥ pr . 1 25 @ 1 50
Rfd-bill, widgeon & gray ♥ pr . 75 @ 1 00
Canvass-back, ♥ pr . . . . . @ ..
Fowls, ♥ lb . . 15 @ .. 22
Geese, ♥ lb . . 20 @ .. 25
green, ♥ lb . . @ .. 25
Goose, ♥ lb . . @ .. 40
Grouse, ♥ pr . . @ 1 50
Pigeons, squab, ♥ doz . 50 @ .. 75
Pigs, suck'g, ea 2 50 @ 3 00
quarter, ♥ lb . 12@.. 17
Partridges, ♥ pr 1 00 @ 1 25
Quail, ♥ doz . . @ 4 00
rabbits, ea . . 10 @ 12½
Tongues, sm'k'd, ea @ 1 37
Turkeys, ♥ whole, ♥ lb . . 25 @ ..
Ordinary, ♥ lb 20 @ .. 25
Venison, ♥ lb . . @ .. 20

Fruits and Berries.

Apples—
new, ♥ bbl . . 50 @ .. 75
Good, ♥ bu . 1 00 @ 2 00
Per bbl . . . 2 50 @ 6 00
Cranberries, ♥ qt 15 @ .. 25
Grapes . . . . @ .. @ ..
Malaga, ♥ lb . . @ .. 75
Lemons, ♥ doz . 15 @ .. 30
Oranges—
Havana, ♥ doz 50 @ 1 00
Messina, ♥ do . . @ ..
Pears, ♥ pk . 1 00 @ 2 00

Fruits and Nuts—Dry and Canned.

Almonds, ♥ lb . 35 @ .. 40
shelled, ♥ lb . . @ .. 60
Apples, ♥ lb . . 12 @ .. 17
Cocoa, ♥ lb . . @ .. 20
Citron, ♥ lb . . 37 @ .. 40
Cocoanuts, each 10 @ .. 13
Chestnuts, qt . . 30 @ .. 40
Currants, ♥ lb . . @ .. 15
Dates, ♥ lb . . 20 @ .. 25
Figs, ♥ lb . . . 20 @ .. 25
Filberts, ♥ quart . @ .. 25
Hickory n'ts, ♥ qt 15 @ .. 25
Peas, split, ♥ qt . @ .. 12
Potatoes, ♥ pk . 25 @ .. 37
Per bushel . 80 @ 1 20
Per barrel . 2 75 @ 3 00
Sweet, ♥ lb . . @ .. 7
Parsnips, ♥ pk . @ .. 50
Sage and Thyme—
Per bunch . . @ .. 10
Squashes—
Marrow, ♥ lb . . @ .. 3
Hubbard, ♥ lb . @ .. 3
Tomatoes, ♥ qt. can @ .. 30
Turnips, ♥ pk . . @ .. 25
Peanuts, ♥ qt . . 16 @ .. 20
Pecans, ♥ lb . . @ .. 25
Prunes, ♥ lb . . 18 @ .. 20
Raisins, ♥ box—
Per quart can 50 @ .. 75
Pears, ♥ pk . 1 00 @ 1 50
Raisins, ja's, ♥ box @ .. 30
Sage and Thyme—
Per bunch . . @ .. 10
Squashes—
Marrow, ♥ lb . . @ .. 3
Hubbard, ♥ lb . @ .. 3
Tomatoes, ♥ qt. can @ .. 30
Turnips, ♥ pk . . @ .. 25

Fish—Dry, Smoked, Shell, etc.

Alewives,—
smoked, ♥ doz . @ .. .
Cod, dry, ♥ lb . 8 @ .. 10
Clams, ♥ gall . . @ 1 60
Halibut, smoked ♥ lb . 15
Fins, ♥ lb . . . @ .. 12½
Haddock, smk'd ♥ lb . @ .. 12½
Herrings, do. ♥ dz . @ .. 35
Scaled, ♥ box . . @ .. 60
Mackerel, shore, ♥ lb . @ .. .
Bait, ♥ lb . . . @ .. 17
Salt, ♥ kit . . @ 4 50
Lobster, ♥ lb . . @ .. 8
Oysters—
Com. stew, ♥ gall @ 1 60
Salmon, smkd ♥ lb 25 @ .. 30
Pickled, ♥ lb . @ .. 25
Scaled, ♥ lb . . @ .. 25
Scallops, qt. . . @ .. 40
Shad, pickled, ♥ lb @ .. 12½
Tongues & Sounds, ♥ lb . . @ .. 12½

Fish—Fresh.

Bass, striped, ♥ lb 17 @ .. 20
Cod, ♥ lb . . . @ .. 8
tongues, ♥ lb . @ .. 15
Cusk, ♥ lb . . @ .. 8
Eels, ♥ lb . . . 12 @ .. 15
Halibut, ♥ lb . . 20 @ .. 25
Haddock, ♥ lb . @ .. 10
Mackerel, each . 10 @ .. 25
Perch, ♥ doz . . 20 @ .. 25
white, ♥ lb . . @ .. 10
Pickerel, ♥ lb . @ .. 25
Salmon, ♥ lb . . @ .. 35
Smelts, ♥ lb . . 20 @ .. 25
Tautog, ♥ lb . . 10 @ .. 12
Trout, ♥ lb . . 30 @ .. 40
Whitefish, ♥ lb . @ .. 20

Sundries.

Cider, ♥ bbl . . . @ 4 00
Per gallon . . 12 @ .. 25
Refined, ♥ gall . @ .. .
Honey, ♥ lb . . 30 @ .. 40
Macaroni, ♥ lb . 25 @ .. 30
Milk, send, ♥ can . @ .. 40
Pickles, ♥ gall . 50 @ .. 75
Sardines—
whole boxes . . @ 1 25
half . . . . . @ .. 80
quarter . . . . @ .. 40
Vinegar, ♥ gall . 30 @ .. 50

NEW YORK FLOUR MARKET.

SATURDAY, Dec. 19, 1868.

The market for State and Western flour opened with a better tone and some advance on shipping grades, which, however, served to check the demand, thus leading to only a moderate business. There is, nevertheless, a rather confident feeling among holders, as regards the future of the market, and hence there is little or no pressure to force sales, particularly as a rise of 5@10c ♥ bbl on freight from Chicago and Milwaukee has restricted the receipts by rail within comparatively narrow limits. The home trade are buying sparingly, as usual at this season of the year, but write a good inquiry for superfine and No 2 for the British Provinces, and, as a consequence, these grades are relatively firmer, and somewhat higher than at the date of our last. For the English and other foreign markets the purchases have been light. California flour remains dull, and prices lower for inferior grades. Sales 26,000 bbls State and Western, and 800 sacks California the market closing quiet. We quote:—

State, superfine brands, ♥ bbl.	$8.—@ 6 40
State, extra brands	6 90@ 7 35
State, choice brands	7 40@ 8 00
Ohio, common brands	7.10@ 7.85
Ohio, fancy brands	7.70@ 7.75
Ohio, good and choice extra brands	8.—@ 9.50
Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, &c.	6.—@ 9.——
Genesee, extra brands	8.20@11.—
Missouri	7.70@12 50
California	5.90@11.50

Southern flour is a trifle lower and very dull; sales 1200 bbls, closing at 7.15@8 for common, and 8.10@13 for fair to prime extra brands. Rye flour is quiet, with sales of 600 bbls at 6.75@7.50. Corn meal is dull and drooping; sales 700 bbls at 4.50@4.70 for Western, 4.95 @5 for Jersey, and 5.75 for Brandywine.—*N. Y. Shipping List.*

BOSTON PRODUCE MARKET.

TUESDAY, Dec. 22, 1868.

We have found little change in the produce market this week, except in those articles in special demand for Christmas:—

The butter market continues firm for the choice grades, which are in very small stock and difficult to obtain in the best producing sections of the country. The common grades are to fair supply, and rather slow of sale at relatively low rates. Receipts are moderate, and country buyers are still paying round prices for straight lots of fall-made butter, while dairymen are offering the balance of their summer crop at a little concession.

Good grades of New York and Vermont butter are firm, and selling in straight lots at 44@45c; ordinary sections are quoted at 43@44c, and extra single tubs for family use at 45@52c ♥ lb. Ordinary and fair grades are dull and selling at 35@43c. Western butter is scarce and mostly nominal at 35@40c, as to quality. Canada is selling in small lots at a range of 35@43c ♥ lb, for store packed and dairy.

Fancy Butter.—In connection with the article on this subject, on 4th page, we have obtained the prices of

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

WEEKLY.

VOL. XXIII. FOR 1868.

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In the following list, the first column of figures shows the price of the magazine or paper in connection with the weekly NEW ENGLAND FARMER. The second column, the price when taken with the MONTHLY NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

	Weekly.	*Mnthly.*
Atlantic Monthly	$6.50	$4.50
Harper's Monthly	5.50	4.50
" Weekly	5.50	4.50
" Bazar, (weekly,) . . .	5.50	4.50
Putnam's Monthly	5.50	4.50
Lippincott's Magazine . . .	5.50	4.50
Eclectic Monthly	6.00	5.00
Hours at Home	4.75	3.75
Godey's Ladies' Book	5.00	4.00
Peterson's Magazine	4.00	3.00
Lady's Friend	4.00	3.00
Arthur's Home Magazine . . .	4.00	3.00
The Galaxy	5.00	4.00
Ballou's Monthly Magazine .	3.50	2.50
Horticulturist (N. Y.) . . .	4.25	3.25
Hovey's Mag. of Horticulture .	4.00	3.00
Every Saturday	6.00	5.00
Littell's Living Age, (weekly,) .	9.25	8.25
Juveniles.		
Our Young Folks	4.00	3.00
Riverside Magazine	4.00	3.00
Our Boys and Girls, (weekly,) . .	4.00	3.00
Student and Schoolmate . . .	3.50	2.50
Children's Hour	3.50	2.50
The Nursery	3.50	2.50

To accommodate those of our readers who would like both editions of the FARMER, we send one copy each, to one address, subscription prepaid,

N. E. Farmer, Weekly and Monthly, $3.50.

We cannot take any subscriptions for the above publications for less than one year, and **the money must in all cases accompany the order.** Any of our subscribers who may desire one or more of the above, and who have already paid us for the coming year, can send us the balance required, and we will forward the publications desired. Subscriptions to the monthlies commence with January, or with the volume, unless otherwise ordered.

In no other way can the leading periodicals be obtained so cheaply as above offered, and we regard it as a special inducement for our subscribers to pay in advance, and secure desirable periodicals for their families at a decided reduction in price.

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General Intelligence.

WOOL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The *Journal* states that the farmers in Salisbury, N. H., and vicinity, who have been holding back their wool for a number of years in the hope of higher prices, are now beginning to dispose of that product. Numerous sales were made last week at forty-one cents a pound, the seller delivering the commodity at Franklin, on the Northern Railroad, six miles distant. The amount of wool now in the hands of the farmers in the Kearsarge Mountain country is very large. In many cases the clippings for two and three, and sometimes four years, are still kept back from the market on account of the low prices. Many sheep raisers have become discouraged and are disposing of their flocks at low rates, with the intention of increasing their dairy business. Others, however, hold on to their flocks thinking that wool will before long go up to fifty cents a pound, and the business again be profitable. In the end the result throughout New England will probably be higher prices for sheep and wool, and lower figures for butter and cheese.

THE ST. THOMAS TREATY.—The Washington correspondent of the *Advertiser*, under date of the 21st, says:—

General Rasloff, formerly minister to this country from Denmark, and now the Danish Secretary of War, has arrived here to see what can be done about the St. Thomas treaty. He is anxious to have it ratified, but is believed to have authority to make new arrangements. The treaty, it will be remembered, was made eighteen months ago, and ratified by the Danish Rigsdad about a year ago, after the inhabitants of the island had voted almost unanimously in favor of being transferred. It has been before our Senate for a year, but was never acted on, the foreign committee being all but unanimous in opposition thereto. General Rasloff will now urge that comity between nations requires that we should do something with the treaty—either ratify or reject it.

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.—Director Delmar, of the Statistical Bureau of the Treasury Department, asserts that he has had a census of the entire Republic taken by the officers of the Internal Revenue organization, and that the population is 36,748,196, of whom 4,683,371 are of African descent.

COST OF INDIAN WARS.—The *Advertiser's* Washington dispatch says a compilation from official records regarding Indian wars shows the cost of the various wars of the past forty years to have been as follows:—Black Hawk war, 400 lives and $5,000,000. The Seminole war, 1500 lives and $100,000,000, only 1500 of the Indians being warriors. A war with the Creeks and Cherokees about the same time cost $1,000,000; the Sioux war of 1852, 300 lives and $40,000,000; the war of 1864, 1000 lives and $60,000,000; the Cheyenne war of 1867, 300 lives and about $12,-000,000; the Indian troubles on the Pacific slope for the last twenty years, about $300,-000,000; three campaigns against the Navajoes $30,000,000. The whole trouble in New Mexico, of which the last item forms a part, $150,000,000. The members of the Peace Commission will meet here in a short time and urge upon Congress to pass all measures necessary to carry out the policy it has adopted.

SPECULATING IN BREADSTUFFS.—A little party of men visited Chicago a month or two ago, with perhaps about half a million dollars at command, and began privately buying up all the corn in the market, contracting for its delivery in thirty days. The contractors, not thinking that a "corner" was forming, neglected to buy corn with which to fulfil their contracts until the month was nearly ended, and then, to their surprise, found an alarming scarcity in the market. The price began to rise as the time of delivery approached, and the contractors grew more alarmed at their prospects, and bid still higher for the quantity needed. Before the hour of filling the contracts arrived, corn was held at $1.15, and many prominent dealers were ruined. When the hour struck the price dropped to 91 cents, and the "corner" was ended. The President of the Board of Trade was the first to go under, with reported liabilities for 300,000 bushels of corn, or some $20.000. Other commission men have been dropping by the way since, and the aggregate loss and distress was very large. The sharp and unscrupulous manipulators of the "corner" made from $100,000 to $300,000, and many outside the "ring" who were fortunate enough to hold their grain and sell it at the right time, also made handsome sums. About $1,000,000 are required to make a "corner" on wheat, and from one-half to three-quarters of a million on corn.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17. Steamer Montana arrived to-day, from Honolulu Dec. 5. Gen. McCook, U. S. Minister to the Islands, is a passenger. Kekuanaoa, the father of the present king, died on the 24th of November. His body laid in state until the 28th. The flags of foreign consulates and shipping were displayed at half mast, and the U. S. steamship Ossipee fired minute guns during the day. On the reception of the news of Grant's election, the American residents celebrated the event by a torchlight procession. Flags were displayed from the shipping in the harbor and from most of the flagstaffs in the city. Advices from the island of Hawaii state that a heavy shock of earthquake occurred on the 16th of November, and there were frequent shocks in the latter part of the month. At times the air was filled with sparks from the volcano Mauna Loa, which is again active. The A. J. Pope, the last of the whaling fleet, has arrived, making in all 59 vessels. The season's catch amounts to 42,000 barrels of oil and 530,000 pounds of bone.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20. The Legislature of British Columbia was formally opened on the 17th inst., at Victoria. Gov. Seymour in his message says the question of Confederation is stationary at present, pending the settlement of the Hudson Bay Company's claims. The Government recommends the establishment of a Colonial Savings Bank, to be under the management of the Government and secured by the general revenue. He also congratulates the Colony upon its improved condition and encouraging prospects.

A NEGLECTED COUGH, COLD, OR SORE THROAT, which might be checked by a simple remedy, like "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" if allowed to progress may terminate seriously. For Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh and Consumptive Coughs, "*The Troches*" are used with advantage, giving oftentimes immediate relief. Singers and public speakers will find them also excellent to clear the voice and render articulation wonderfully easy.

THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN CHANGED by the use of the Peruvian Syrup (a protoxide of Iron) from weak, sickly, suffering creatures, to strong, healthy, and happy men and women, and invalids cannot reasonably hesitate to give it a trial. For Dyspepsia and Debility it is a specific.

OUR READERS should notice the advertisement headed "To the working Classes, &c."

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ Dr. E. B. Nims, assistant physician at the Brattleborough, Vt., Insane Asylum, has accepted a similar position at the Northampton asylum.

☞ The Portland and Rochester Railroad was opened to Alfred, Me., on Wednesday of last week. This will open a market to a fine farming district.

☞ The new Capitol at Albany will cost, when completed, between $4,000,000 and $5,000,000, and be the finest and most complete public building in the country.

☞ Judge Nelson of the United States Circuit Court has granted a temporary injunction to restrain the Shore Railroad Company from bridging the mouth of the Connecticut river.

☞ On Saturday, 12th, as Thomas Comstock of Great Barrington was hurrying with his gun to shoot a fox, he slipped and fell causing the discharge of his gun, and the ball passed through his head, killing him instantly.

☞ Another attempt was made with the well known box arrangement on Friday night last, to burn the Harris street church, at Newburyport. The citizens are very much alarmed at the state of affairs now existing in that town.

☞ The earnings of the Maine State prison for the present year have been $22,000, about $4600 more than last. The sales of manufactured articles have amounted to $55,000, of which $35,000 were for carriages and $20,000 for boots and shoes.

☞ The dwelling house and farm buildings of Daniel Locke of Epsom, N. H., were consumed by fire on Tuesday night, 15th. The personal property lost included considerable household furniture, nearly half of a large stock of cattle, hay, grain and farming utensils.

☞ The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads have decided to report a bill modifying the franking privilege. The use of stamps for franking is to be prohibited, and a recommendation will be made that Congressmen be deprived of the franking privilege except when in Washington, during a session.

☞ The farm of ex-Governor Wise in Princess Ann county, so long held by the Government, was, on the 17th, surrendered to the owner by order of the United States authorities. The Government also ordered the payment of rent to the owner of the Libby prison, for one year's use of it.

☞ The town of Hardwick, Vt. recently sued one of its selectmen for $600 of the town fund, which he spent during the war to buy a substitute for his son, who counted on the town quota; and also to recover money claimed by him for expenses in transacting the town's business. The town lost both cases.

☞ Mr. James Wheeler, one of the employes of the paper mill at Congin, in the town of Westbrook, Me., while at work in the establishment Thursday afternoon, was caught in the belting and killed almost instantly. He was an unmarried man and somewhat advanced in years.

☞ At East Weymouth river, recently, a large quantity of tom-cod were driven in by a gale, and when the tide ebbed they were stretched out on the marsh in great abundance, affording a bountiful harvest for the residents in the vicinity, who gathered many barrels full of the finny store.

☞ The law of Massachusetts says: "Whoever catches any pickerel or trout in any river, stream, or pond, in any manner than by hooks and lines, or who takes and catches pickerel from the first day of December to the first day of May, shall be fined $1 for every pickerel or trout so taken."

☞ There is a report in circulation, and it seems to have some foundation, that the Directors of the Erie Railway Company are preparing to construct a tunnel under the Hudson river, at New York, to accommodate the business of their road and one or two other roads now terminating at Jersey City.

☞ Out of something more than 150 life sentenced prisoners discharged from the Massachusetts State prison in sixty-three years, nearly a hundred—or about sixty-five per cent—have been pardoned; while the average length of sentence of the whole has been less than eight years, and only one in five has died in prison.

☞ Ira Collins is the owner of a farm in Sonoma county, California, which had suffered seriously from drought. Only by digging a very deep well a supply of water barely sufficient for the uses of the family could be obtained. Since the big earthquake, however, the water has risen to the top of the well, and some sixty acres of land on the farm will have to be ditched and drained before a crop can be put in.

☞ The tannery of Noah C. Huntress, at Centre Barnstead, N. H., was partially burned on the night of the 16th inst. Partial loss on both building and stock. Insured $2400.

☞ In view of the recent decision of Judge Underwood, invalidating the acts of State courts on account of the constitutional disqualification of members thereof, a convention of State Judges has been called.

☞ A gentleman of Bloomington, Ill., recently took his three children in a wagon eight miles to the railroad depot, and as it was bitter cold, they were placed in the bottom of the wagon, amid the straw, and wrapped in a buffalo robe. On arriving at their destination the children, being uncovered, were found frozen to death.

☞ It is stated that the two parties implicated in the recent Custom House frauds in New York left suddenly, on the 17th, for Canada. The importers interested were Guitemon Brothers, who have justified to the Government in $250,000. The sum of which the Government is believed to have been defrauded is over a quarter of a million.

☞ Trees to be used on Christmas were in great demand in New York. It will surprise some of our readers in the State of Maine to hear that a tree thirty feet high and eight inches thick was sold to a Sunday School for $25. A tree of twenty feet will sell for $12 or $15, according to the bushiness of its head, and smaller trees may be bought at various prices down to twenty-five cents.

☞ The Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, is in receipt of returns showing the disposal of 27,187 acres of the public domain during the past month at the following local offices: Traverse City, Michigan, 12,541 acres; Detroit, Michigan, 4211 acres; San Claire, Wisconsin, 5892 acres; Marquette, Michigan, 4563 acres. The greater portion of the land was taken by actual settlers under the homestead law.

☞ Garcelon's Block, on Main street, Lewiston, Me., took fire on Saturday morning, and the inside of the building was nearly destroyed. It was occupied by Thomas Sykes & Son, merchant tailors, stock saved, and losses covered by $3000 insurance; S. & J. W. May and F. Bradford, lawyers; and the office of the register in bankruptcy of the second district. Loss from six to eight thousand dollars. The building was owned by Sykes & May, and is insured for $3000. Ex-Judge May's law library is badly damaged. An ex-fire company also lost property valued at about $700, on which there is no insurance, and the Lewiston Band which occupied the same hall lost several of its instruments.

Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, 15th inst., by Rev. J. A. M. Chapman, Austin Harris of East Machias, Me., to Emily F. Pope of Boston.

16th inst., by Rev. Baron Stow, Mr. Grafton Femo of Salem to Miss E. J. Brooks of Milford, N. H.

In Charlestown, 17th inst., by Rev. J. E. Rankin, Edward H. Poor of Worcester to Clara A. Stimpson of C.

In Lexington, 17th inst., Miss Nellie M. Harris of L. to E. G. Wilson of Duxbury.

In Waltham, 16th inst., by Rev. E. E. Strong, Edward M. Onion of Boston to S. Lizzie Farnsworth of W.

In Worcester, 15th inst., by Rev. Dr. Hill, Mr. J. J. Brougham of Boston to Miss Abbie A. Monroe of W.

In East Boston, 14th inst., by Rev. J. S. Bingham, D. D., Col. Isaac Crosby of Hebron, N. H., to Mrs. Mary Ann Shaw of Bristol, N. H.

In South Boston, 16th inst., by Rev. E. E. Aiden, D.D., Mr. William Smith to Miss Hattie A. Jones.

In Boston Highlands, 17th inst., by Rev. H. M. King, Dr. George Jewett of Fitchburg to Mary, daughter of Dea. Kendall Brooks of B. H.

In Somerville, 10th inst., by Rev. John Sweet, Leonard Atwood, Esq., of New York, to Nellie M. Walker.

DIED.

In this city, 18th inst., Benjamin Francis Adams, 61 yrs. 6 mos.

16th inst., Mr. James Tolman, 57.

15th inst. Mrs. Abigail Sanborn, 62 yrs. 8 mos.

18th inst., Miss Ann Appleton, 75.

19th inst., Anna Maria Wells, widow of the late Thomas Wells, Esq., 73.

In South Boston, 19th inst., Abby, wife of S. N. Howe, 45 yrs. 7 mos.

In Chelsea, 21st inst., Capt. Ezra Hawkes, formerly of this city, 85 yrs. 7 mos.

In Somerville, 17th inst., William Munroe, 83 yrs. 7 months.

In Brookline, 18th inst., Miss Elizabeth Hunting, 70.

In Newton Corner, 17th inst., Mrs. Sarah Wilmarth, 87 yrs. 11 mos.

In Ware, 18th inst., Dea. John Tolman, 77.

In Stoneham, 18th inst., Col. Elbridge Gerry, 75.

In Newburyport, 19th inst., Mrs. Salome Daggett, 70; William Lent, 82; 16th, Capt. Adams Knight, 79.

In Alfred, Me., 14th inst., Judith M., wife of Joseph Emerson, Esq., 73.

In Piqua, Ohio, 7th inst., Daniel Brooks, Esq., 85, formerly of Charlestown, N. H.

New Advertisements.

WANTED, A COMPETENT AMERICAN man or Protestant from the British Provinces, of good character, to do the work in a family of six persons near Boston. Address Box 4356, Post Office, Boston, Mass. 2w52@

MAN AND WIFE WANTED TO TAKE charge of a Farm. *American and not over 30 years old, and no children.* Apply to 106 BLACKSTONE STREET, Boston. 3w52@

$8 FOR FIFTY CENTS! AGENTS Wanted. Particulars free, or sample for 50 cts. Sells everywhere for $8. Address JULIUS RISING, Southwick, Mass. 4w52@

GRANITE STATE

Military & Collegiate Institute, REED'S FERRY, N. H., ON NASHUA and Concord R. R. Rev. S. N. HOWELL, Principal.

Advantages.—Retired location, yet easy of access; no saloons, or places of idle resort; full corps of teachers; thorough instruction, &c. Pupils received at any time. Send for Circular. 4w52

THE CONFESSIONS OF AN INVALID. Published for the benefit of young men and others who suffer from Nervous Debility, &c., supplying the means of self-cure. Written by one who cured himself, and sent free of charge. Address, NATHANIEL MAYFAIR, Brooklyn, N. Y. 2w52

FRESH GARDEN, FLOWER AND TREE Seeds. Wholesale or retail list to any address. Seeds on commission. Agents wanted. B. M. WATSON, Old Colony Nurseries and Seed Establishment, Plymouth, Mass. Established 1842. 4w52

FALL CARPETINGS.

BUY AT HEAD-QUARTERS

A FULL ASSORTMENT OF ALL THE new and desirable patterns, English and American.

CARPETINGS, OIL CLOTHS, &c.,

Constantly on hand and for sale, at the lowest prices, by

Goldthwait, Snow & Knight,

Importers and Manufacturers' Agents,

No. 33 Washington Street, Boston. 4w52

Editor of the New England Farmer.

I WISH TO SAY TO THE PUBLIC THAT after suffering for six years from Callouses on the bottom of my feet, and from Corns and Inflamed Joints, and after exhausting the skill of the oldest Chiropodist in Boston, I find myself perfectly cured by the treatment of Dr. Bond, Surgeon Chiropodist, No. 351 Washington Street. In justice to his skill, and that others suffering like myself may know where to find relief, this statement is most respectfully submitted.

L. H. MORTON,
86 I Street, South Boston.

Office open from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M. Sundays till 1 P. M.

N. B. This remedy can be sent by mail on receipt of $2.00, with full directions for use. 13w52

SUPER PHOSPHATE
OF
LIME.

Farmers Buy the Best!

BRADLEY'S PHOSPHATE!

Warranted Uniform in Quality.

THE ANIMAL MATTER CONTAINED in the entire bone is restored to this Compound in the most concentrated form, making a powerful manure.

☞ Pamphlets giving directions for use sent FREE of charge on application.

MANUFACTURED BY

WM. L. BRADLEY,

24 Broad Street, Boston.

Canterbury, N. H., Nov. 12, 1868.

Dear Sir:—You may say to those inquiring about the utility of Bradley's Super Phosphate whether or not it pays—that I have used it with good success the last five or six years, and am fully convinced that the crop more than doubly pays the cost.

I have used it mostly in raising corn, and apply it in the hill at planting time. Very soon after it comes up the corn assumes a dark green color, and continues on with a vigorous growth, ripening at least ten days sooner than corn planted without Phosphate. I used it the past year on twenty acres of corn with results more satisfactory than ever, yielding about two thousand bushels of good sound ripe ears of corn. I have tried Poudrette and could perceive but little benefit from its application.

I have also tried other Phosphates, but none has given so good satisfaction as Bradley's.

Yours truly, D. M. CLOUGH.

From the owner of the celebrated stallion GEN. KNOX.

North Vassalboro', Me., Dec. 8, 1868.

W. L. BRADLEY, Esq.,

DEAR SIR:—When I met you in Portland, I was unable to answer in full your queries as to the satisfaction found in the use of your Super Phosphate, as my crops were not harvested.

I am gratified with the result of its application upon corn, potatoes and roots, and have arranged for a liberal supply for the coming season.

I am respectfully yours, T. S. LANG.

From Judge Pierrepont, 103 Fifth Avenue, New York. Nov. 26, 1868.

WM. L. BRADLEY, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—You ask how the Super Phosphate which I had of you last spring proved in its use upon my country place upon the Hudson River.

I say in reply, my gardener used it on the lawn, on the piece of meadow and on the Indian corn.

Its effect was rapid and wonderful. It is far the cheapest manure of which I have any knowledge.

Yours truly, EDWARDS PIERREPONT.

State Reform School of Connecticut.

West Meriden, Conn., Dec. 12, 1868.

WM. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—We much prefer your Super Phosphate on the various crops we raise on our farm to any now in market.

I am happy to recommend yours as a superior article to all who use fertilizers.

We shall order an increased amount for next year's use. E. W. HATCH, Supt.

Chester, Vt., Oct. 14, 1868.

MESSRS. ROBBINS & MARSH,

Gentlemen:—Last spring I planted two acres with corn. There were just 50 rows through the field, making the two acres. I used about $25 worth of Bradley's Phosphate on the piece, putting it in the hill except on one row, on which I used no Phosphate at all, but which was treated like the balance of the field in every other respect. I did not complete my experiment with the Phosphate, until I found that I had not purchased enough to finish out the dressing with which I had commenced.

When I harvested the corn I was particular to weigh the production of the row without Phosphate, in comparison with an average one with the Phosphate.

The row which had no Phosphate gave me 147½ pounds corn. One with Phosphate yielded 229 12-16 pounds corn. Fodder on row without Phosphate 294 200 lbs on row with Phosphate 400 lbs. You will thus result you will see that I got over three dollars' worth of corn and fodder for one invested in Phosphate.

Yours respectfully, O. S. SAWYER.

Chelsea, Vt., Oct. 26, 1868.

MR. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I used five pounds of your patent Super Phosphate on two rows of potatoes as far as that amount would go, dropping a tablespoonful in a hill. At the time of digging, I found by carefully counting that the yield of potatoes on the Phosphate was just two bushels more than I got from two rows right along side, containing the same number of hills. Instead of using 5 pounds next year, I intend to use at least 2000 pounds. Respectfully yours, HARVEY ROBERTS.

Chelsea, Vt., Oct. 26, 1868.

MR. W. L. BRADLEY,

Sir:—Last spring I planted 3½ acres with potatoes, the soil in the piece being all alike. On two acres I used one barrel of your Phosphate to the acre, and the balance of the piece, one and a half acres, I put 20 bushels of common wood ashes. From the two acres manured with Phosphate, I dug 300 bushels of potatoes, while the one and one-half acres which were dressed with the ashes yielded but 185 bushels.

Yours truly, ISAAC H. MERRILL.

Middlebury, Vt., Oct. 12, 1868.

MR. WM. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I have an old clay soil meadow, of about three acres; and three years ago I began experimenting on it with your Super Phosphate, by top dressing, with about *one half barrel* of the Phosphate to the acre. Before the Phosphate was applied the meadow produced regularly about a ton hay to the acre. I applied about the same amount of Phosphate each year, the last spring early in the spring. The yield of hay has steadily increased each year, both in quantity and quality since I began the treatment with Phosphate, and this summer I cut fully two tons of hay to the acre, of far better quality than that grown on same land in its former impoverished condition. I think that this land is now what would be called rich meadow; whereas three years since it would hardly pay for mowing. I think the grass on land manured with Phosphate is worth at least three dollars per ton more than that grown on ordinary land, without Phosphate—and I certainly would make that difference in purchasing to feed my own stock. I raised a fine crop of potatoes on the Phosphate this season, and believe it an excellent manure for that, and indeed all other crops.

Very truly, &c., H. A. SHELDON.

Lyme, N. H., Feb. 28, 1868.

W. L. BRADLEY, Boston. *Dear Sir*:—I wish to give you the result of my experiment with your Super Phosphate of Lime, in 1866, on oats. I used it on one and one-fourth acres of exhausted land, except about one-fourth of an acre on which I used guano and barn-yard manure to test their relative value. The result was decidedly in favor of your Super Phosphate. The oats were much taller, better filled, a stronger stalk, and a decidedly heavier yield where the Phosphate was used, than on the portion treated with barn-yard manure or guano.

The yield of oats on the one and one-half acres, was one hundred bushels, and weighed three pounds per bushel over the legal standard.

I sowed the Super Phosphate myself, and not being accustomed to sowing I did not scatter it evenly; more fell through in the hills on each side, and the oats showed so far as the field could be seen, where your Super Phosphate was used the most liberally, and it gave the field the appearance of being in ridges of large waves.

The men who threshed the oats pronounced them the largest yield that had been raised in this vicinity that year, and they did most of the threshing.

I have used your Super Phosphate on corn with satisfaction. On oats it acted like magic.

Yours truly, GEO. F. SAWTELL.

Royalton, Vt., Jan. 29, 1867.

W. L. BRADLEY, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I had a quantity of your Phosphate last fall and it gave good satisfaction. Mr. O. Bruce tried it on a piece of oats with barn-yard manure; the *Phosphate beat the manure one hundred per cent.* He thinks he realizes from the use of his oats, two hundred per cent. Yours truly, J. W. METCALF.

The oat crop is a very important one to the New England farmers, and one which is benefited as much by the use of Phosphate as corn or potatoes.

A trial will convince any one of this fact. W. L. B.

Windsor, Maine, Oct. 31, 1868.

JOHN MCARTHUR, ESQ., Augusta, Maine.

Sir:—I purchased of you last Spring, eight barrels of Bradley's Patent Super Phosphate, and applied it to the cultivation of potatoes, on 8½ acres of old worn out land with no other manure.

The result was two hundred bushels to the acre, being fully double the quantity produced on an equal amount of newer land without Phosphate, and the quality was decidedly better, being larger, smoother, and worth at least fifteen to twenty cents per bushel more than where no Phosphate was used.

In answer to your inquiry, whether Phosphate pays, I can say I raised 1700 bushels of potatoes this year for sale, and can realize 75 cents per bushel for them at Augusta, eight miles from my farm. I am confident I raised at least five hundred bushels more for using sixty dollars worth of Phosphate, and the quality was very much better. I intend to use at least 2½ tons next year. Yours, &c. LEONARD W. TAYLOR.

Concord, Mass., Feb. 8, 1868.

MR. BRADLEY.

Dear Sir:—Your Super Phosphate of 1867, has given general satisfaction in my neighborhood. I have used in the last ten years, more than twelve hundred dollars worth of the different fertilizers, Poudrette, Guano, Blood Manure, Bone in its different forms, and none of these compare with yours in lasting benefits. I have two pieces of mowing ground where nothing else has been applied as a top dressing for many years, still the crops of grass (for I take off two every year) were good, much better than could have been expected. I raised as fine snap corn as to quality, as can be found in the town, on an old plain that had had no manure for forty years, to my certain knowledge, with three hundred pounds of your Phosphate to the acre, one-half in the hill, the other half spread. I find nothing as a concentrated manure that compares with it.

Truly yours, ELIJAH WOOD.

W. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I raised 1200 bushels of potatoes last year. I think at least 500 was due to your phosphate. Too much cannot be said in its favor. I think your entire production should be used in Massachusetts.

V. R. WARREN.

From Wm. H. Hunt Esq., President of the Farmers' Club.

Concord, Mass., Feb. 6, 1868.

WM. L. BRADLEY, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I used your Super Phosphate extensively the past season, on corn, with very satisfactory results. In September, 1866, I reseeded a field of two acres, with no other manure than your Super Phosphate at the rate of three hundred pounds to the acre. In order to satisfy myself whether I was throwing away my money, I left several strips without any. On these strips the grass seed came up poorly, it was not one-half so thick as on other parts of the field. All the fall and the next spring, the difference was perceptible as far as the field could be seen, and when I mowed it, I judged the crop was less by one-half on these strips. I was satisfied that I got well paid for using the Phosphate. Yours truly, WM. H. HUNT.

Willimantic, Conn., Nov. 13, 1868.

MR. WM. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I used three barrels of your Super Phosphate this year on corn, potatoes and squashes, and it has given me entire satisfaction. It proves superior to any fertiliser I have ever used. Yours truly, A. G. PLACE.

Willimantic, Conn., Nov. 13, 1868.

WM. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I have used your Super Phosphate the past two years, with other fertilizers in the same field, to test the quality of each, and do not hesitate to pronounce yours the best. My business leads me to examine the crops on a large number of farms besides my own, and I find as a general rule that where Phosphate is used, it increases the corn and potato crop from one-third to one-half.

I am fully convinced that no farmer can afford to plant without it. Yours truly,
ROBERT BROWN, Real Estate Agent,

South Coventry, Conn., Nov. 13, 1868.

WM. L. BRADLEY,

Dear Sir:—I used your Super Phosphate last spring on corn, potatoes, and a variety of garden vegetables, and it worked to a charm. It is decidedly the best fertilizer I have ever used. Yours truly,
WM. A. BAILEY.

Business Notices.

THE THREE QUESTIONS.

What shall we eat? what shall we drink?
And what for clothing wear?
Of all the questions we can think,
These the most common are.
In answer to the first, we'll say—
Eat plain and wholesome food;
And when your thirst you would allay,
Drink water pure and good;
And teach your Boys when they want "CLOTHES,"
At prices which are fair.
To purchase them at GEORGE FENNO'S,
At Twenty-two DOCK SQUARE. 1w52

Carpets.—Just Received from the Forced Sale, 100 pieces Kiddle Tapestries for $1.50 per yard.

100 pieces Cottage Carpets for 50 cents per yard.

125 pieces of Ingrain Carpets for 75 cents per yard.

90 pieces of Superfine Carpet for $1.25 per yard.

50 pieces imperfect Ingrain for 62 to 87 cts. per yard.

An invoice of superb Three-plys very cheap.

400 rolls oil Cloth, 40 to 75 cts. per yard.

Also an invoice of Stair Carpeting for about half value. 4w51 NEW ENGLAND CARPET CO., 75 Hanover St.

Those Possessed of Common Wit

Buy bottles that white wrappers fit;
But fools are often caught and sold.
With tinted wrappers, brown and old.

WOLCOTT'S ANNIHILATOR, full pints, price $1, is sold by all respectable druggists. Wolcott's Pain Pellet is the most efficient remedy for pain. Buy it. Try it. 2w51

THE
IRON CLAD.

A Heavy, Warm, Double Breasted Over-coat. Price only $5.90. It baffles the storm and defies the Northwester. Sold at 12 and 13 Dock Square, Corner of Elm St., and at no other place in Boston.

JACKMAN & MERRILL.

The assortment of cloths in Custom Hall, and nice garments in Ready-made, is complete, at prices marked low enough to ensure a speedy sale. 4w50

NO WIND, DUST, SNOW, OR RAIN

Can penetrate where

TORREY'S PATENT WEATHER STRIPS

are used.

Send for Illustrated Circular showing our new improvements.

E. S. & J. TORREY & CO.,
72 Malden Lane, N. Y. 6w48

COLGATE & CO.S'

Aromatic Vegetable Soap,

Combined with Glycerine, is recommended for

1y27 Ladies and Infants.

Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, 15th inst., by Rev. J. A. M. Chapman, Austin Harris of East Machias, Me., to Emily F. Pope of Boston.

16th inst., by Rev. Baron Stow, Mr. Grafton Femo of Salem to Miss E. J. Brooks of Milford, N. H.

In Charlestown, 17th inst., by Rev. J. E. Rankin, Edward H. Poor of Worcester to Clara A. Stimpson of C.

In Lexington, 17th inst., Miss Nellie M. Harris of L. to E. G. Wilson of Duxbury.

In Waltham, 16th inst., by Rev. E. E. Strong, Edward M. Onion of Boston to S. Lizzie Farnsworth of W.

In Worcester, 15th inst., by Rev. Dr. Hill, Mr. J. J. Brougham of Boston to Miss Abbie A. Monroe of W.

In East Boston, 14th inst., by Rev. J. S. Bingham, D. D., Col. Isaac Crosby of Hebron, N. H., to Mrs. Mary Ann Shaw of Bristol, N. H.

In South Boston, 16th inst., by Rev. E. E. Aiden, D.D., Mr. William Smith to Miss Hattie A. Jones.

In Boston Highlands, 17th inst., by Rev. H. M. King, Dr. George Jewett of Fitchburg to Mary, daughter of Dea. Kendall Brooks of B. H.

In Somerville, 10th inst., by Rev. John Sweet, Leonard Atwood, Esq., of New York, to Nellie M. Walker.

DIED.

In this city, 18th inst., Benjamin Francis Adams, 61 yrs. 6 mos.

16th inst., Mr. James Tolman, 57.

15th inst. Mrs. Abigail Sanborn, 62 yrs. 8 mos.

18th inst., Miss Ann Appleton, 75.

19th inst., Anna Maria Wells, widow of the late Thomas Wells, Esq., 73.

In South Boston, 19th inst., Abby, wife of S. N. Howe, 45 yrs. 7 mos.

In Chelsea, 21st inst., Capt. Ezra Hawkes, formerly of this city, 85 yrs. 7 mos.

In Somerville, 17th inst., William Munroe, 83 yrs. 7 months.

In Brookline, 18th inst., Miss Elizabeth Hunting, 70.

In Newton Corner, 17th inst., Mrs. Sarah Wilmarth, 87 yrs. 11 mos.

In Ware, 18th inst., Dea. John Tolman, 77.

In Stoneham, 18th inst., Col. Elbridge Gerry, 75.

In Newbur

Poetry.

From Putnam's Magazine, for January, 1869.

AMONG THE TREES.

BY WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Oh ye who love to overhang the springs,
And stand by running wat rs, ye who o boughs
Make beautiful the rook- o'er which they play,
Who p e with toiling the great hills, and rear
A paradise upon the lonely plain.
Trees of the forest and the open field!
Have ye no sen e of be ty? Does the air,
The pure air, which I br a he w th g adness, pass
In gushes o'er your delicate tunge, your le v s,
All unenjoyed? When on y ur We ter-sleep
The sn and sa warm, have y- no dreams of spring?
A d when the glorious spring- ime comes at la t,
Have ye no joy of al your bursting buds,
And y great b coms, and melody of birds
To which y ur young b eas shiver? Do ye strive
And wrestle with the wind, yet know it not?
Feel ye no glory in your str ngth when he,
The cl ud-cuffed it storer, fli s beyond the hills,
And leaves you stronger yet? Or have ye not
A sense of loss when he has stripped your leaves,
Yet tender, and h s splintered your fair boug s?
Does the loud bolt that smites you from the cloud
And rends you, fall unfelt? Do there not run
Strange and strange things through your fibres when the axe
Is raised to d stroy you, a d the shining blade
Deals blow on blow, until, with all their boughs,
Your summits waver and ye fall to earth?
Know ye no sadness when the hurricane
Has swept the wood- and snapped the sturdy stems
Asunder, or has wrenched, from out the soil,
The mightiest with their circles of strong roots,
And piled the ruin all along his path?

Nay, doubt we not that under the rough rind,
In the green veins of these fair growths of earth,
There dwel s a nature that receives delight
From all the gentle processes of life,
And shrinks fr m loss of being. Dim and faint
May be the sense of pleasure and of pain,
As in our dreams; but, happily, real still.

Our sorrows touch you not. We watch beside
The beds of those who languish or who die,
And minister in sadness, while our hearts
Offer perpetual prayer for l fe and ease
And health to the beloved sufferers.
But ye, while anxious fear and fainting hope
Are in our chambers, ye rejoice without.
The sun-ral goes forth; a si nt train
Moves slowly from the desolated home; our hearts
Are breaking as we lay away the loved.
Wh m we shal see n more, in their last rest,
Th ir little cells within the burial-place
Ye have no part in this distress; for still
The fer il ity sunshine steeps your boughs
And tints the buds and swells the leaves within;
While the song sparrow, warbling from her perch,
Tells you Spring is near. The wind of May
Is sweet with breath of orchards, in whose boughs
The bees and every insect of the air
Make a perpetual murmur of delight,
And by whose flowers the humming-bird hangs poised
In air, and draws their sweets and darts away.
The tinden, in the fervors of July,
Hums with a louder concert. When the wind
Sweeps the broad forest in its summer prime,
As when some master-hand exulting sweeps
The keys of some grea organ, ye give forth
The music of the woodland deep, a hymn
Of gladness and of thanks. The hermit thrush
Pipes his sweet note to make your arches ring.
The faithful robin, fr m the w -side elm,
Carols all day to cheer his sitting mate.
And when the autu n comes, the kings of earth,
In all their majesty, are not arrayed
As ye are, clothing the broad mountain-side
And spotting the smooth vales with red and gold
While, swaying to the sudden breeze, ye fling
Your nuts to earth, and the brisk squirrel comes
To gather them, and barks with eldish glee,
And scampers with them to his hollow oak.

Thus, as the seasons pass, ye keep alive
The cheerfulness of nature, till in time
The constant misery which wrings the heart
Relents, and we rejoice with you as in,
And glory in your beauty; till once more
We look with pleasure on your vanished leaves,
That daily glance in sunshine, and can hear,
Delighted, the soft answers which your boughs
Utter in whispers to the babbling brook.

We have no history. I cannot know
Who, when the hillside trees were hewn away,
Happy two centuries since, bade spare this oak,
Leaning to shade, with his irregular arms,
Low-bent and long, the f ont that from his roots
Slips through a bed of cresses toward the bay.
I know not, but thank him that he left
The tree to flourish where the acorn fell,
And join these later days to that far time
While yet the Indian hunter drew the bow
In the dim woods, and the white woodman first
Opened these fields to sunshine, turned the s il
And strewed the wheat. An unremembered Past
Broo s like a presence 'mid the long gray boughs
Of this old tree, which has outlived so long
The flitting generations of mankind.

Ye have no history. In kin vain
Who planted on the slope this l fty group
Of ancient pa ents that with spli g time burst
In each breadth of bloom. The bears a scar
Where the quick lightning scored its trunks, yet still
It feels the breath of Spring, and every May
Is white with blossoms. Who lt was that laid
Their infant roots in earth, and tenderly
Cherished the delicate spray. I ask in vain.
Yet these the u known hand to which I owe
This annual f stival of beau, these songs
Of bir s within their leafy scr en, the sh ents
Of joy from children gathering up the fruit
Shaken in August fr m the w ld ing boughs.

Ye that my hands have p anted, or have spared,
Beside the way, or in the orchard ground,
Or in the open meadow ye whose boughs
With every summer spre d a wider shade,
Whose herd l: coming years shall he at rest
Beneath your no ntide shelter? Who shall pluck
Your ripened fruit? wh g ave, as was the went
Of simpl pastoral ages, on the rind
Of my smooth b ech-tree some beloved name!
Idly I ask; yet may the eyes that look
Upon you, in your later, lonlier growth,
Look as on a nobler age than ours;
An ge when, in the eternal strife between
Evil and Good, the Power of Good shall win
A grander mastery; when kings s o more
Shall summon children from the plough to learn
The trade of slaughter, and of p ulous re lms
Make camps of war; when in our y ung st land
The band of ruffian Violence, that now
Is insolently raised on the shield
Unnerved before the ca n rebuke of law,
And Fraud, his s y confidence, shri k, in shame,
Back to his cavern, and foreg his prey.

A Selected Story.

From the Independent.

THE OLD FOLKS' CHRISTMAS.

BY MISS AUGUSTA LARNED.

The soft, still snow-storm of Christmas Eve came and encamped like a band of angels rownd the old couple's dwelling. It stooped and kissed their aged foot-prints on the worn pathway, and with white and spotless hands soothed the scars of the time-stained roof and the faded clapboards, that shook loose in wintry weather.

Everything was old there. The gnarled, half-dead apple-tree in front; the clump of ancient plum-trees by the garden wall; the well sweep worn out in service, complaining with a weak, querulous voice; the gate upon its wheezy hinges—old, gently, quietly decaying, in summer sunshine and winter wind.

But the Christmas storm, shaken down by invisible hands, had come to touch the half-dead features of the scene with a sinless, holy, young innocence. It was the white evangel of the Christ-child, written for the children's festival—the dear children everywhere, both old and young.

I am going to tell you of a very aged pair of children.

It was morning—the late, lazy morning of Christmas Day—and it took the sun half an hour to edge round so as to steal over the cushion of feathery snow on the window-sill, into Dame Hildreth's bed-room. Her face, sleeping upon the pillow, though withered, was not quite so sunken and aged-looking as the old man's beside her. But the white locks that lay scattered over her temples matched in whiteness the scant hair that peeped from Grandpa Hildreth's night-cap. So serene and placid, so sinless, were their faces in the child-hood of extreme old age, it seemed as if some spirit whose work is preparation had tenderly smoothed away every trace of sorrow and regret, every sharp line drawn by ingratitude, distrust, or worldly wisdom, in view of the loosing of the "silver cord," the breaking of the "golden bowl."

When the sun touched Dame Hildreth's eyelids, that Christmas morning, she seemed to wake out of an ecstacy of infant slumber, and her gaze wandered to the pure, still world outside, as joyous and happy as a bird.

"Wake up, grandpa; wake up! It's Christmas morning."

Grandpa was so very old, and his blood was so very sluggish, it took him a long time to wake up. The process seemed to begin in his toes, and get telegraphed slowly along, from station to station, until at last it reached his brain. The dame had to administer three nudges and two pretty sharp shakes before he opened his eyes.

"A merry Christmas!" screamed she in his deaf ear. "Don't you see the world has blowed out, like our old plum-trees in April?"

"So it has," said grandpa, yawning; "but it beats the old tinker to think how we're blocked in. The snow must be nigh on to three feet deep."

"That's the joke of it," chuckled grandma, with the most infectious delight. "We'll be all the snugger and cozier; for our shoveling-days are over—ain't they, grandpa? Still it can't keep our thoughts from flying off to all the happy people who are waking up this morning; though I can't think any of them are quite so happy as we are."

The old man looked at her with his faded, dim eyes; but there shone in them the light of a young, divine love.

"What a rare day this will be for the lads!" the dame went on, in her gleeful childishness. "Here's a merry Christmas to all rosy-cheeked little boys, with their mittens and sleds."

"And here," said grandpa, "is a merry Christmas to all the dear, rosy-cheeked little girls, with their doll-babies and sugar-candy."

"What a sly-boots you are, grandpa, to think of the little girls." He looked very much indeed like a sly-boots, pulling on his leg a long, blue yarn stocking. Grandma tripped away, in her kerchief and petticoat, to the window; for, when her old bones once got in motion, they were very spry bones, indeed.

"Oh, look!" cried she, gazing up to where the sunny blue sky was braided with the smooth, purple plum-tree branches, lined and faced with fleeciest down. "What a flock of snow-birds has come to take breakfast on the gum of our old trees. Bless their little hearts, how merry they are. And that puts it into my head, we must get up something extra for breakfast, seeing it's Christmas morning. What would you relish, grandpa?"

"Some of your Injun cakes. Nobody's Injun cakes taste like yours. Let me see; what did we have yesterday morning?"

"Injun cakes and potatoes; and the morning before potatoes and Injun cakes."

"Let's have plain Injun cakes this morning, by way of variety."

"What a waggish man you are, grandpa, to say that, when you know we are just clean out of potatoes." The innocent, happy old lady laughed with gleeful delight at grandpa's fun, and hand in hand they began their Christmas Day.

The old man, dressed in a long gray double gown, with the scant silvery locks falling to his shoulders, his bowed back, feeble knees, eyes that saw not much, and withered hands, groping forward, gave an impression of great decrepitude; but Dame Hildreth, on the contrary, in her funny little cap, with its big bow called a windmill, her quilted stuff petticoat, neat kerchief, and apron, conveyed the idea of brisk, alert old age. She seemed like an ancient robin, taking care of something very much larger, more helpless, and dependent than itself.

Out into the kitchen they stepped—a snug enough place in its way—with their two splint-bottomed armed chairs, cushioned with patch-work cushions, standing on either side the fire-place; the great fat old Tabby-cat in her basket; the tall, old fashioned eight-day clock, cased with curled maple; the dresser against the wall; the light-stand, with its worn "Ha' Bible"; the funny-twisted, spider-legged table; with drying herbs, and grandpa's hat and stick upon their pegs. A pretty, homely picture, when fire-light flickered along the wall, and brought out warm glints from tin and pewter.

The old man piled some chips within the hearth, while "grandma" produced their small remaining store of wood. "Ten sticks," said she, counting them, and bubbling over with fresh fun, as if cold and hunger were little accidents quite beneath her notice; "such a big pile! such a huge pile! But there's enough to keep us warm to-day; so we will mind the Good Book, and take no thought for the morrow."

Grandpa went and raised the window-sash, standing with his thin locks flattering in the wind, as if to invite the radiant, mild, blue weather to be his guest. His dim gaze wandered off to the magic picture of snow-white trees, not yet deflowered by sunshine, resting against the deep azure of the sky.

"The air tastes just like maple honey, and smells like fresh roses," said he to the dame, who had come to peep over his shoulder.

"This is the children's day," answered she, softly; "and the Father is showing his dear lambs how their kingdom looks."

By this time a fire was crackling and snapping on the old couple's hearth—a small, slender fire, to be sure. "Grandma" mixed the cakes, and "grandpa" baked them. When they sat down to their meager fare the old man spread his withered hands, and fervently asked God to bless their daily bread—the plate of thin corn-dodgers and a cup of weak tea!

I don't know whether it was Christmas sunshine streaming in at the window, or old Tabby purring before the fire, or the kettle singing on the hook; something certainly put "grandpa" into very high spirits that morning. He praised "grandma's" cakes more than usual, and he always praised them a great deal.

"I wish," said the dame, half sighing, "Roger could taste them; he always set such store by my cakes, and these Christmas times bring him back as he used to be—a little, merry, black-haired shaver, hanging his stocking against the chimney, and scampering out before day to see what old St. Nick had brought."

"Don't fret your head about Roger," said the old man, with more spirit than was usual to his calm placidity. "Roger has the best of everything to eat, drink, and wear; and he seldom frets his head about us."

"Fie! grandpa. I hope you do not cherish the old grudge to-day, of all days in the year."

"No! no!" said he, with more and more spirit; "but I haven't quite forgot all the past."

"I have," said "grandma," eagerly, the light of a sacred hidden memory coming to her eyes. "I have forgotten everything, but that day, long years ago, when you said, as the Lord had given us prosperity, but withheld the blessing of little children, it was our plain duty to adopt and bring up some houseless, motherless creature, just to keep us from growing selfish; for there was great danger, grandpa, of our getting too much wrapped up in each other. I remember that other day, when we went to the poor-house, how my heart flew to little Roger on account of his dear bright eyes, God bless them! and how I took him in my arm and carried him on my bosom, that never had felt the weight of a baby of my own. I mind that, grandpa; and I mind what a good lad Roger was, how I loved to hear him whistle and shout. Quick at his learnin', too, he never fretted me many times; only one day, when he robbed some birds' nests.

"Aye, aye, grandma, he didn't forget how to rob birds' nests when he grew up. I trusted him with uncounted gold; but once (now I've most forgotten how many years ago) he asked me into Lawyer Shrewd's office to sign a paper. I left it to him to read, and he read it false. I signed away the old farm unknowingly; and Roger robbed our birds' nest, yours and mine." The perspiration started out feebly on the old man's pale forehead. He took his bandanna and wiped it off.

"It wouldn't have mattered so much whose name the property was in," said the dame, her mind groping on in old recollections, "if Roger hadn't changed toward us, and lost his frank, open-hearted way; especially after he brought his fine lady-wife home. We would have loved her dearly; but she never took to us. Perhaps our ways seemed rough and uncouth. I've sometimes thought we were a great trial to her, a much greater trial, than we ever knew."

"No doubt on't; no kind o' doubt on't," said the old man, dreamily, now lapsing back into the contentment of his second childhood. The dame's more active faculties still fumbled at the knot of those sad memories.

"Did they tell us to go away from the old place?" asked she, looking up, half puzzled.

"No, no, it couldn't have been so bad as that. They must have hinted, just hinted, it was best for us to go. And perhaps Roger was right; for we've spent many, many happy years under this humble roof. Roger must have seen things clearer than we did, after all."

"Did it rain that night we came away—a cold, drenching rain, that wet us to the skin? My mind is blurred when I try to think of that night. May be I remember the tear-drops on my cheeks, for it was hard to leave the dear old home we had worked and paid for with our own hands. Every tree was like a pet child; wasn't it, grandpa?"

"Yes, yes," said the old man, completely lapsed now into the great calm of his years; "but it was all for the best. Now, grandma, won't you hand me my Bible, open at the Psalms? I hain't no sight to read by; but I like to feel the Book in my hand while I say them over by heart, it's so like the grasp of an old friend."

"There," said the dame, shaking the crumbs out of the window for the robins' breakfast; "I hear somebody scraping on our steps. I'll warrant ye our old friends have found us out."

"Yes," said grandpa; "a body's old friends are very apt to find them out on Christmas Day."

The brisk old woman flew in high glee to open the door. "Massy sakes alive! It's Job! Come in, Job, and a Merry Christmas to you!"

Job was a tall youth, protruding a good deal from his clothes at the wrists and ankles. His face slanted up, ane slanted down, to the climax of a large red nose.

"No, thankee," said Job to "grandma's" invitation. "I'bein ith Chrithmath, a feller can't hang round the houth all day; so mebbe you'll let me shovel off your walk for echther-thith."

"You're as good as gold, Job, and always was. Now, grandpa, I guess the old friends'll be coming along pretty brisk. She hadn't any very clear notion of what old friends were alluded to (for alas! too many of those summer birds had flown away with the aged couple's prosperity); but the idea warmed and pleased her very much.

"Gee-up, Bright; gee-up." It was Seth French's voice, guiding a noble pair of oxen, attached to a heavy load of the best hickory wood, in at the old people's gate. There was much clanking of log-chains, creaking of the old sled, and ploughing up of the light snow, that hung in a silver fringe on the strong, patient creatures' dew-laps. Seth French's blue eyes twinkled like two stars, in contrast to his red face and redder beard, as he gave three sharp knocks on the door with the butt-end of his whip.

"There, what did I tell you, grandpa?" cried the dame, running to admit the new-comer. "Seth French, I do declare!"

Seth was laconic. "You see," he began, "them pesky cattle" (curling his long whip-lash lovingly over the backs of his oxen) "hain't done enough lately to earn their salt; so I thought, just to give 'em a little airin', I'd draw ye down a snag o' wood. It was kind o' worthless stuff, layin' round in everybody's way; so mebbe you an' the Squire will do me the favor to accept on't."

"Do you hear what Seth says?" screamed "grandma" into the old man's deaf ear. "Do you hear what the best natured, kindest-hearted man in the world says?—just as if he knew we had only five sticks in the house."

Seth thought it was high time to give a "gee-up" to his oxen, and slip round to the shed.

Scarcely had he disappeared, when there came a rushing of feet, a scampering, tumbling, and hallooing of young voices. Even grandpa's dull ear caught the sound. "There are more of 'em—more of the old friends," chuckled the dame, as she helped him to totter to the door again, and threw it wide open.

Truly a pleasant sight met their eyes. Some dozen of the largest lads from school—their faces all aglow with rough-and-tumble play—had come, bearing saws and axes, to saw, split, and pile the old people's wood. They were drawn up on a line before the house. "Now," said the leader, tossing his cap into the air, "three cheers for Squire Hildreth! three cheers for Dame Hildreth! three cheers for Christmas!" As the boys' fresh voices resounded in hurrahs, the old man took his hat and waved it, as blandly pleased as an infant. The old woman fluttered her apron in joyous excitement.

Under Seth's direction, two of the lads now brought in a huge back-log and fore-stick, piled them upon the hearth, and in no time a grand Christmas fire went crackling in roars, and flames, and showers of sparks up the wide-mouthed chimney. The sight of the dancing flames made tears dance into grandma's old eyes.

"We never trusted our Heavenly Father in vain," faltered she, "and we have trusted him all our lives. The God of the young raven and the little sparrow—of all helpless, weak things—has fed us from his store and hid us under the shadow of his wing."

The aged couple clasped hands, and met each other's gaze, with a silent, unutterable prayer. Perhaps it was the depth of their grateful emotions, perhaps the merry roaring of the fire up the chimney, that prevented them from hearing a little child's hand that tapped at the door. It tapped once, twice; then it lifted the latch, and admitted a small, rosy-cheeked country lass, dressed in a home-spun blanket and woolen hood.

"Why, bless my old eyes," cried Dame Hildreth, running to kiss her, "if here ain't Sissy Andrews!"

"Mother sent you a Christmas," said the little girl, shyly, producing a basket almost as large as herself. "And," continued Sissy, with the subject very much on her mind, "she says I may stay a little while—if you ask me."

"Heart and sakes alive! there ain't such a treat in the world to grandpa and me as a little girl! So take off your things, and come and warm by our big Christmas fire."

Sissy stepped out of her blanket, like a shining wheat kernel out of its sheath—looking, in her plump, dimpled state, as if there was no possibility of ever feeling cold. Then she slipped in between grandpa's knees, and in five minutes was on his lap, combing out his long, silvery hair, and patting his head with her funny little pin-cushion hands; until, with Tabby lying at his feet, in the great glow of the Christmas fire, he looked the perfect picture of contented old age.

Meanwhile grandma unpacked the basket. "Here's one of Miss Andrews's mince-pies, and you know what a master-hand she is at a mince-pie; and a loaf of white bread; and a chicken, all stuffed; and a pot of honey!" Each of these announcements was attended with a little burst of delight. "Now, grandpa," said she, giving him a sly poke, "I guess we'll roast this chicken for dinner, instead of having that big, fat turkey down stairs." Away she trudged after the Dutch oven, and, when the chicken began fizzing and spluttering before the fire, declared it smelt just as good as if they didn't luxuriate on chickens every day they lived.

The next knock that came to the door was from a school-boy's hand—a freckled, tow-headed school-boy, with the lappets of his cap tied very snugly over his ears.

"Here, grandma," cried he, bursting in with a great quantity of fresh air, "I've brought you a Christmas-green."

"La, if it ain't our little speaker," exclaimed the dame, "who speaks such a beautiful poetry piece! And I was just now saying to grandpa, if I had a Christmas-green I should be quite made."

The laurel bough was accordingly put up over the antique looking-glass, and the little speaker called upon to speak. So he stepped out bravely, pulled his fore-lock, and in a nasal drawl began those famous lines of Mr. Pope's—

"Father of all, in every age, in every clime adored."

"Ain't he a dabster at a poetry piece, grandpa? What did you say was the name of it, Nathan?"

"The Universal Hymn," said Nathan, proud of his knowledge.

"Oh, the Universals' Hymn. I never quite agreed with them Universals; but that is a good hymn, if they do claim it."

When the school-boy had gone home; and Sissy had trudged away through the snow; and the beautiful day had slidden into the beautiful orange-tinted sunset; and the fire glowed like a deep, intense cavern of redness; and Grandpa Hildreth lay dozing in his chair, his features all at rest, looking as if he glided insensibly out to the deep sea soundings of eternity; and Dame Hildreth sat in the opposite chimney-nook, her knitting in her idle hands perhaps dreaming back in the days of her far off, love-lighted girlhood, there came a knock at the door—a deeper, more meaning knock than any that had sounded upon it that day.

"Who is it?" said the dame, peering into the gathering dusk.

"Don't you know me, mother?"

"Roger, Roger, at last!" half sobbed, half laughed the happy old creature, throwing her arms around him, quite regardless of the woman who followed, and the little golden-haired child, bearing white lilies in her hand, that had pressed the waxen cheek of a dead boy.

"Where is father?" huskily whispered the strong, broad-shouldered man, bowed and broken in some strange way.

"Here, here," and she led him weeping to the old man's chair.

"Grandpa, here is Roger come home."

"Roger," murmured the old man, half asleep. "I dreamed he was a little lad again, standing by my knee to read his primer."

"No, no, father," cried Roger, kneeling down at those aged feet; "not an innocent child, but a sinning, sorrowing man. From the death-bed of my brave, beautiful boy I come to implore your forgiveness." His voice was choked with tears.

"Nay, nay," said the old man, soothingly. "I have known what it is to be tempted, to be weak, to sin. How could I hold resentment in my heart? I pardoned you—fully, freely pardoned you—long years ago."

His arm slipped about Roger's neck; the little child, with her snowy lilies, crept into his lap, and laid her golden head against the old man's breast; the repentant wife knelt on the other side, and clasped hands with both of those she had so deeply wronged; and over that group of feeble age, strong manhood, and sinless infancy was breathed the Christmas spirit—"Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Ladies' Portfolio.

SWALLOWS.

Chimney swallows! homeward hie,
You shall have my lady's eye,
To look and love you, now and then,
When she lays down her book or pen,
Shut wholly from the sound of men.
In her chamber if you build,
Nevermore will you desire
To wander from her happy fire,
But flittering in your new-found nest,
Say to each other—"Here we rest.

O, had I but your pinions, too!
Full well I know what I would do.
I know where I should dwell to night,
Where lamp and fire and eyes are bright,
And where the music never fails
Even if the instrument be still.
There is a music that prevails
Beyond the master's highest skill;
Such harmony as flows from love—
Not passionate—but full of peace;
Past understanding, and above
Music—most felt when that doth cease.
—*T. W. Parsons, in the January Galaxy.*

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

CONTRIBUTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Pickling Apples.

Take a peck of sweet apples, pare and boil until tender in a syrup made of five pounds sugar and one quart of vinegar, to which add two teaspoonfuls each of cloves and cinnamon.

My way to make Sausages.

Take equal quantities of fat and lean pork, run three times through the cutting machine, and to thirty pounds of meat add nine ounces salt, two and one-half ounces black pepper, three tea cups sage, one and one-half cups summer savory, one cup brown sugar, one heaping table spoonful ground mustard. M.
Weybridge, Vt., Dec. 7, 1868.

Seasonable Hints for Housekeepers.

SAUSAGE.—Take fat and lean meat, cut off the rind, and chop fine. Season as follows: To twenty pounds of meat add seven ounces of salt, two ounces of sage and two heaped-up tablespoons of pulverized black pepper; mix with the hand and pack in tin pans. Place a cloth (after it has been dipped in melted butter) over the meat, a board over the pan, and set in a cool place. If to be kept in warm weather, cut in slices and fry till partly done, pack in a stone jar and turn the dripping over the meat; cover the jar tight and keep in a cool place. In this way sausages can be had all summer. If anybody wishes to add extra seasoning, such as summer-savory, ginger and cayenne pepper, they have the privilege to do so; but for our part we only use what is in our receipt.

LARD.—The lard should be taken off the inwards as soon as taken out and soaked two or three days in spring water, changing it twice a day, then tried in an iron kettle and kept for winter use. The leaf should be cut up in small pieces and tried nicely, and when a little cool strain into tin pans; when cooled to the consistency of honey turn it into a fat tub or a stone jar, cover tight, and set it in the store-room. If for summer use, when the weather becomes warm set the tub or jar on a table or shelf in the cellar, three or four feet from the bottom. In this way we keep lard the year round without salt or even trying once in the spring.

HAMS.—As soon as the animal heat is gone the hams and shoulders should be thoroughly rubbed with salt and literally covered; lay them on a table in the cellar, and in a week they will be ready to smoke; after which rub the fleshy part with molasses, and sprinkle well with black pepper. Hang in a dry place and they will keep all summer.

BEEF.—To prepare beef for drying, cut the pieces as desired, rub them all over with salt, each piece separate, and pack in a large wooden bowl or pan, and let remain two or three days, then smoke if you like, and then dry as usual.—*E. A. Call, in Germantown Telegraph.*

Rye and Indian Bread.

Mrs. Eliza Prentice, of Dakota, sent the following receipt to the American Institute Farmers' Club:—

For a good thick loaf, one pint of rye flour to three pints of Indian meal, one-half teacup (some say one cup) of syrup, or its amount in brown sugar; scald with boiling water—be sure and stir in water enough to thoroughly scald it; no salt; cover it over, but let it stand until cool, then reduce it with cold, sweet milk, until quite thin, or enough so to pour into your pan; bake all day, let it stand in the oven all night, if convenient. If you don't have a luscious loaf in the morning, then I am not the daughter of a New England mother. This is the Rhode Island plan fifty years ago, that is, minus the molasses. The Massachusetts and Connecticut people used to add yeast when cool; but I much prefer the Rhode Island plan.

If your crust is too hard to eat, remove it and soak it in water, then add to your next loaf; you will find it richer and superior to your first—after the second or third loaf you will need no syrup. Another way that has been more recently sought out, is two cups of meal and one of flour, two cups of sweet milk and one of flour, one-half cup of syrup, one-half teaspoonful of saleratus, and a little salt; pour in a two-quart basin, well buttered, steam two hours and bake one hour in a hot oven; turn the dish bottom side up on a plate for half an hour before eating. This is for a small family. You can enlarge on it if you like. It is easily prepared for dinner.

From "A Book About Dominies."

THE DOMINIE'S DAY-DREAM.

I have read a book called "The Day-Dreams of a School Master," which seems to me the pleasantest book ever written about dominies. This dry work of mine does not aim at presenting the reader with dreams, but with hard facts, which I have seen and would speak of; nevertheless, it will not be out of place if I try to paint some of the dreams which come to me when my day's work is done, and my tired thoughts leave the stern lessons of this world, and fly to the kindly sports of fancy-land.

I like to imagine myself retired from the cares of dominieship, ending my days in peace and leisure. I shut my eyes on work and care, and a vision arises before me of a cottage, at the porch of which, covered with gay roses and gentle jasmine, I am sitting on a summer evening, watching the red glory of the sunset change into the solemnly beautiful hues of twilight. Behind my cottage is a little wood, sweet with violets, and before it a grassy bank, sloping down to a sparkling brook. And near me is the sea, and around me are the grand blue hills, among which I spent my boyhood. And as I sit and hear the babbling of the brook and the singing of the birds, and the lowing of the cattle, and the cheery talk of men and women returning from their daily toil, I know that I am far from the bustle of cities, and the hard hearts of men hastening to be rich. But the chief charms of my visions are the lady who sits by my side, and the children who cling to our knees or toddle gravely about us, or sport merrily around the cottage, never going so far away that we cannot hear their clear voices and happy laughter. And my wife is young and beautiful, and loves me more than all the world. And Latin grammar is a mystery to her, and she would tremble at the very idea of reading a paper before the Social Science Association. But she knows how to rule over our domestic economy with care and prudence, and how to teach our children those things which they learn better from her loving instinct than by all the systems of the most learned dominies in the world. She knows, too, how to spread a happy sunshine of love through our home, which makes it a little temple on earth, and scares away the evil spirits begot of darkness and moody solitude. Thus, gently and carelessly, I pass away the summer evening of my life, her fair hand clasped in mine, her silken tresses resting softly on my shoulders, her sweet face looking trustfully into my eyes. And I am contented, and my wife is kind and beautiful, and my children are honest and healthy, and God has blessed us; what can I desire more? But I open my eyes, and lo! it is all a dream, for I am sitting in my cheerless study, the table untidily littered with papers, and the grim volumes in the library covered with dust. And then comes upon me, with double force, the unutterable sadness of being alone. This is why I would be willing to exchange places with that naughty little boy whom I had to punish so severely this afternoon. His tears have doubtless dried long ago, for he has a mother, and brothers, and sisters, to whom he can tell all his troubles, and in their mirth and kindness forget them, while I—I must bear my share of work and woe alone.

Once I thought that this dream of mine about a home, or part of it, would become more than a dream. While young and full of hope I met a sea-side town, where I was passing my holidays, a woman whom I loved, and fain would have made my wife. I saw her to be fair, and thought that she was true. And she said that she loved me, and would ever love me; but she lied. For when it was told her that I was only a dominie—that the work of my life was to whip and scold boys—she killed the young love in her heart. Ah! that she could have bid mine die as easily! And she married a subaltern officer, about whose gentility Mrs. Grundy made no inquiries. It is too commonplace a story to interest the reader, and I will not dwell upon it. I have tried to forgive and forget her; but when I take from its biding-place the crumbling skeleton of a rose which she gave me as we walked by the side of a quiet river many, many years ago, a fierce bitter longing rises in my heart, and I pray God to let me wet the withered flower with tears.

Thus is it that I have lived unmarried all my life, and that, if my visionary cottage be ever built elsewhere than in my mind's eye, its only tenant will be a cynical, grumbling old bachelor. So this dream of mine begins in pleasure and ends in pain. Away with it, and call up another which shall soothe and comfort me without reopening old wounds.

WIFE.—There is no combination of letters in the English language which excites more pleasing associations in the mind of man than wife. There is magic in this word. It presents to the mind's eye a cheerful companion, disinterested adviser, a nurse in sickness, a comforter in misfortune, and a faithful and ever affectionate friend. It conjures up the image of a lovely and confiding woman, who cheerfully undertakes to contribute to your happiness, to partake with you the cup, whether of weal or woe, which destiny may offer. This word wife, is synonymous with the earthly blessing; and we pity the unfortunate man who is condemned by fate's severe decree to trudge along through life's dull pilgrimage without one.—*Pittsburg Mail.*

Wit and Humor.

A JOKE OF THE OLDEN TIME.—Woodbury Page was well known thirty years ago and more, as one of the regular drivers on the old Manning line of stages, and for a long time passed daily between Beverly, the place of his residence, and this city—being somewhat famous along the route for his individuality and readiness at repartee. In those days, as well as since, Beverly people were proverbial for eating baked beans, and our neighbors in Charlestown were equally noted for an alleged fondness for pork. One day the Beverly driver was helping a fat and heavy passenger into his coach in Charlestown, when another driver belonging in the latter place came along with his stage, and having occasion to drive up in front of the same door where the former had halted, called out, "Page, take your bean-pot out of the way!" To which the Beverly wit replied instanter, "Wait till I get my pork in!"—*Commonwealth.*

OLD DICK WILLIAMS was quaint but lazy. On one occasion Dr. H. called on Dick, and handing him a basket, desired him to go to a certain spot, about two miles distant, and bring him a quantity of snails, adding, "Be as quick as you can, Dick, for I am in a hurry." Muttering that "the doctor is always in a hurry," Dick set off on his expedition; and the doctor, after his round of visits, seated himself in his office to rest and to wait for Dick. In the deepest twilight of the long June day Dick appeared, and after carefully setting down his basket, seated himself with an air of utter weariness on the threshold of the open door. "Well, Dick," said the doctor, "did you get the snails?" "Look in the basket, doctor." The doctor looked, and to his vexation saw only two or three miserable "specimens" on the bottom of the basket, and exclaimed irefully, "Why, Dick, what does this mean?" ironically adding, "were there no snails there?" "Oh, yes, plenty of 'em there, doctor, but it was *such hard work to run 'em down!*"

THE ACORN'S LESSON.

A FABLE BY LA FONTAINE.

A country clown, reflecting once
Upon a pumpkin (thoughtful dunce!)
Was fain to chide Omnipotence
As clearly wanting common sense.
"Had I," said he, "the world arranged,
Some things, at least, would have changed;
This pumpkin here, so large and round,
Would not have grown upon the ground,
But youth of oak, with branches spread
Their giant arms above my head,
Had borne the fruit which one may see
Would well become so large a tree;
While acorns, had the power been mine,
Had fitly graced the slender vine.
It seems to me the plainest case
That both are greatly out of place,
If 'Providence,' whom parsons praise
As wondrous wise in all his ways,
Had but consulted me, I ween
Things in their order we had seen;
Then in their due proportion all
Had been adjusted, large and small;
And wondering Wisdom had not found
The pumpkin growing on the ground,
Nor haply laughed aloud to see
The acorn pendent from a tree!"
Fatigued with thoughts so sage and deep
The clown was now inclined to sleep;
And so beneath the shady oak
He laid him down, but soon awoke,
For on his face, by luckless hap,
The acorn falling broke his nap,
And ek his nose! from whence the blood
Was streaming in a tiny flood!
"Zooks!" cried the clown, who greatly feared
A mortal wound, till in his beard
He spied the cause of all his woe,
The acorn that had struck the blow.
"Good luck!" he muttered, "I have found
Why pumpkins grow upon the ground!
For if they grew on oaks instead,
Where now had been my foolish head?"

HERALDIC ANIMALS.—A foreign writer observes: "Among the wild animals are elephants, lions, tigers, wolves, bears, antelopes, stags, lynxes, porcupines, foxes and wild boars, not to mention hogs and pigs and piglings innumerable, long tailed, short tailed and curly tailed. Concerning all these denizens of the forest, the most remarkable thing is the unanimity that reigns among them in regard to one particular matter; what I mean is, that, with an occasional exception in favor of the pigs and piglings, one and all of them stand on their hind legs. Whatever else they may do, they are sure to do that; with their fore feet and paws they may push against some shield or hatchment, they may grasp as best they can a dagger or a battle ax, or flourish their tails aloft and expand their nostrils, as if eager for the fight; but under any circumstances they decline to settle down on all fours, so that I am forced to conclude that the position which is natural to their congeners is foreign to them."

NEW DEFINITIONS.—*Truth*—Something to be stifled at any cost.

Charity.—Cursing, reviling and hating those who differ with you with all your heart, soul and strength.

Brotherly Love.—See *Gammon and Spinach.*

Concord.—A state of blessedness reached by exterminating five-sixths of your fellow countrymen.

Other Christian Virtues.—Powder and shot.

Waist.—A moveable feast offered by Fashion to sight.

Water—The lover's register.

Wedding-party.—The crowd at an execution.

Whim.—A fly that buzzes in the empty chamber of the brain.

Wit.—The truffle of conversation.

Woman.—The first who added woe to man.

Wrinkles.—Time's telegrams.

THE Cornell *Era*, a paper just started at Cornell University, tells the following good story:—

A few days ago, as a gentleman from Ithaca was riding over the country, he saw a farmer's boy standing by the roadside holding a horse, which he recognized as belonging to an Ithaca livery establishment. Being lonely, and desiring to converse with some one, he asked the boy who was the owner of the horse. The boy replied: "It belongs to a crazy Dutchman looking for birds' nests over yonder in the woods." The "crazy Dutchman" was none other than Prof. Louis Agassiz.

STATE OF THE MARKET.—Bread Stuffs—Rising every day. Gunpowder—Goes off easily. Bitter Beer—This article has a *downward* tendency. Indigo—The trade is dying. Pickled Pork—Dead, and very inactive. Brandy—Very spirited. Vermilion—Finds a ready sale. Nutmegs—In grater demand. Soda Water—Brisk and lively. Lead—Very heavy.

AT Lynn, Mass., a school teacher asked a little girl who the first man was. She answered that she did not know. The question was put to the next an Irish child, who answered loudly, "Adam, sir," with apparent satisfaction. "Law," said the first scholar, "you needn't feel so grand about it; he wasn't an Irishman."

A FRENCHMAN owed a man eight hundred francs, and he made a proposition to give him eight notes, payable monthly, for one hundred francs each. The first note was protested The creditor demanded an explanation. "I didn't want you to lose eight hundred francs all at once, so I divided it up, that your loss might fall upon you by driblets."

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